

Working Around The World, One Stitch At A Time

The Sweater Venture was born out of an interest in learning about and appreciating the customs, cultures and values of societies different from mine in far away corners of the world.

More than 25 years later, with all those far-away corners now so much closer, The Sweater Venture tries to hold on to those core values as tightly as ever. To me that means working as directly as possible with the many artisans whose work contributes to our collections. To that end I return to Ecuador, Bolivia, Nepal among other destinations regularly where I work directly and in cooperation with knitters, yarn dyers, yarn spinners, button producers and sweater finishers to create the collections in all the many colors, cuts, fibers and models you see here. It also means always paying fair wages and promoting healthy, safe working conditions. The pieces we produce and market are not made in sweatshops or by children or even in factories. Most of the knitting is done in the home on a "cottage industry" basis. That means supplies are limited and minor variations exist between pieces but it also means knitters can enjoy family, friends and community support while making a very good living. Paying our knitters well for all these years has contributed to tremendous economic development in many of the communities in which we work. This has fostered better educational opportunities for the young, a better health and nutritional environment for all and coincided with stabilizing democratic political options in their home nations.

We recognize that we have not changed the world, nor is it our intention to do so, but I do believe that it is important that all of us here at The Sweater Venture to behave honorably and with respect toward our co-workers around the world, that we export the best of our values and recognize and appreciate the best in others. In the end, I believe the products we offer will reflect that common respect. Your support allows us to continue that work and is very much appreciated. If you wish to learn more about our interactions around the world please contact us at your convenience and see pictures, share stories and ask questions. Your interest is greatly appreciated.

Dan Welch

The Sweater Venture

