

St. Paul's disburses fair trade festival proceeds

Fourth annual event benefits nonprofits

The fourth annual Distant Neighbors Fair Trade Festival proceeds benefitted three local nonprofits. The festival, held the weekend before Thanksgiving and sponsored by St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Georgetown, also benefited the artisans and farmers who created the affordable and diverse products sold at the fair.

Fair trade refers to the direct purchase of goods from people in developing nations. Based on economic and social justice principles, fair trade empowers and assures the talented low-income artisans a fair price for their labors, an opportunity to better their lives by providing financial support for their families and a way to achieve dignity for their work.

The Distant Neighbors Fair Trade Festival also provides information, creates awareness of the economic and social challenges facing both distant neighbors around the world and nearby neighbors, and provides entertainment and ethnic and traditional food.



THE WAY HOME PROGRAM Director Barbara Del Mastro, left, thanks Distant Neighbors Fair Trade Festival Chair Karen Swartout and St. Paul's Episcopal Church parishioners for their donation.

Festival Chair Karen Swartout presented a check to Barbara Del Mastro, program director of The Way Home Program in Georgetown. For more than a decade, The Way Home staff and volunteers have been working with imprisoned individuals; they meet them at the prison gate upon release to provide transportation, clothing, food, shelter, job search help, and mentoring. Continued support is provided for participants wishing to reunite with their families and ensure their lives are on track.

First Steps/Primeros Pasos Early Childhood Learning Center teacher and Administrator



Distant Neighbors Fair Trade Festival Chair Karen Swartout, left, presents a check to St. Paul's Episcopal Church parishioner Fred Dean, a volunteer with the Resource Conservation & Development Emergency Home Repair Project.

eliminate conditions that present an immediate health or safety risk, allowing homeowners to remain in their homes until more extensive repairs can be completed. RC&D Housing Program Director Fred Traute reported the donation was used to buy materials to repair two homes in Lincoln and Lewes, and homes in Frankford, Seaford and Bridgeville, as part of the organization's Sussex Episcopal Work

Camp.

"We are fortunate that as the Fair Trade Festival expands we are able to support more and more worthy local area organizations," said Karen Swartout, festival chair. "We wish to thank the community for its continued support of the annual Distant Neighbors Fair Trade Festival, which has enabled us to donate these funds to help our neighbors, both nearby and abroad."