



Africa We Care

Dedicated to the alleviation of suffering in Africa

A Report on the Eden Textiles Recycling Program in Partnership with Africa We Care to Benefit Africa



Bales loaded on carts for distribution in Cotonou, Benin, Africa.

The Recycling Program created through a partnership between Eden Textiles and Africa We Care is dedicated to the empowering of women in Africa, in the main. The Program offers a wonderful opportunity that makes a tremendous difference in the lives of African people, while at the same time reducing vast amounts of post-consumer waste that would otherwise end up in the landfills across Canada.

Africa We Care is gratefully indebted to the generosity, and humanitarian foresight of Eden Textiles in this its “eco-friendly initiatives and meaningful charitable donations” that sets it apart as “a contributing global citizen”. Nevertheless, Africa We Care would like to indicate that the demand for this worthwhile and farsighted program, and the funds to execute it, by far exceeds current supply. We need more resources: more materials to ship to Africa; and the funds to help defray the

cost of shipment. Africa We Care very earnestly urges more participation and engagement from the hospitality chains and industry.

Since the inception of the Program in the spring of 2008, Africa We Care has made two shipments of donated used and new articles of clothings, shoes, beddings, towels, toys, and various assortments of house-hold material in the last year. Each shipment of 40ft container consists of 425 bales; each bale weighs 55kgs, for a combined weight of 23,375kgs. In total, we have shipped 46,750kgs of assortments of wears, materials, and post-consumer textiles, 25% (11,688kgs) of which comes from the Eden Textile Recycling Program, consisting of the following:

- Bed sheets, bed spreads, blankets and pillowcases
- Comforters
- Curtains and drapes
- Pillows
- Table clothes and placemats

Africa We Care sorts through all donated items before baling, packaging, and shipment to ensure that the goods we send are of the best quality. The Eden Textile Recycling Program has always provided us with the absolute best in quality. In Africa they are considered to be in optimum condition, and are greatly appreciated. There is a high demand for products in such mint condition, and a great value is placed on the same items which in Canada are considered post-consumer material and would end up in the landfill. This is more than just a recycling program to save Canada from having too much waste. It is empowering women in Africa.



One of the women supervisors oversees the sorting of shoes.



Porters loaded ready to transport bales to various destinations.

Africa We Care considers itself an empowerment organization providing opportunity rather than offering charity. At Africa We Care, our programs and projects are heavily biased towards women for various reasons. In Africa, the women are the hub of economic activities: they are the bread winners; the market traders; the farmers; the heart and soul of the family and community. Yet they are the most marginalized and under-appreciated in the male dominated African society. Women are more likely to re-invest their earnings in their businesses and their families.

At Africa We Care, we believe that the best way to lift Africans from poverty is to empower the women: encourage them to initiate entrepreneurship, or expand their existing ventures. The goods are provided to the African

women at a nominal price to those who can afford it, and free to those just starting out. They, in turn sell the items to hotels, motels, and some government establishments in their various towns and cities. They earn profits; grow their businesses – for sustainability factor – and are able to feed their families.

The positive effect of the Eden Textile Recycling Program goes beyond the individual African people who gainful productive economic activities has improved their self-esteem; restored their basic human dignities, and lifted their families up from poverty; the communities benefit. Jobs are created; knowledge is shared; civic participation increases; women become recognized as valuable members of society.

Africa We Care aspires to grow this partnership with Eden Textile to include many more hospitality chains, so that we can help many more Africans. The need is huge, and the demand for post-consumer materials great. We would like to make a shipment every second month, not just twice per year.

Each shipment costs about \$10,000, and since Africa We Care is not supported by the government and relies solely on the good will of the people, we would like to use this opportunity to appeal for corporate and personal monetary donations to help us defray the freight costs. Tax receipts for income tax purposes are issued for monetary donations. No amount is too small.



Men sometimes lend a hand or take a look.

Eden Textile and Africa We Care will continue to provide a better life for Africans, as well as care for the environment as we maintain and grow the Eden Textile Recycling Program initiative.

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