Third world artisans benefit from Helping Hands

By Cydney Wilson

Helping Hands Handcrafts, a gift shop at 339 N. Cotner Blvd. opened in November 1981. Helping Hands sells items handcrafted in Third World countries and the profits are sent back directly to help the people in these developing countries.

Helping Hands orders its sales items from SERRV and MCC Self-Help Program. SERRV, which was originally an acronym for Sales Exchange for Refugee Rehabilitation Vocations, offers a market to artisans in a wide variety of situations in some fifty "developing" countries worldwide.

SERRV, an ecumenical church-related marketing program, was developed after World War II to help refugees and displaced persons in Germany. The long-term solution which SERRV hopes to offer is a more adequate income for the individuals who market these crafts.

The MCC Self-Help Program, similar to SERRV, is a relief and service agency supported by Mennonites and Brethren in Christ, Self-Help also provides machinery and sewing machines to villages in some areas of the Third World.

Mark-up on items from these two out-

Helping Hands have been set up across the United States and Canada and are supported by many different denominations. SERRV and Self-Help wish to preserve the artistic traditions of the area or country from which they came, not wishing to pro-

Helping Hands is staffed by volunteers and all of the profits are going toward refugee resettlement and to SERRV and Self-Help in order to buy more handcrafts.

mote commercialism.

The Jute Works of Bangladesh started with five or six people and now has expanded to 30 persons making up their staff group and 25,000 craftsmen. The Jute Works, which began by selling their wares to SERRV, now distribures to other companies in North America as well.

According to JoEva Jones, a volunteer at Helping Hands, SERRV and Self-Help are "a way for groups of people to get established - they are a stepping stone. Hopefully the people are getting a fair price for their wares. Of course, it's according to their living standards and not ours."

Some crafts are from one family, while others may come from a village or community. One group of men, who make glass spun birds and stars, pledged that they will lets include shipping, customs and over- make improvements in the housing and head costs, but no profits. Stores similar to water systems in their village with the pro-

FUTURE

MEDICAL

STUDENTS:

Find out how you can

have fuition, books and

tees PAID receive

\$530 per month and compete for internship

and residency programs

Archie Summerlin

116 So. 42nd St. Omaha, NE 68131

Call Collect:

(402) 221-4319

Contact:

Capt.

fits they make from their products.

"There is definitely quality control, as they realize their products are being sold in other parts of the world, and they are open to suggestions for better packaging, better gluing, etc.," commented Jones.

Currently the hours of Helping Hands are Thursdays 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thus far, Helping Hands has sold over \$12,000 worth of items, which has helped a number of individuals from around the world who depend upon the sale of their

handcrafts as the major source of income for their families.

need

Donate Blood. American Red Cross







Thousands of prizes and every card can win!

Just rub off three spots on the pizza. If the numbers match, you can win His 'n Hers Dodge Omni Misers, vacations, RCA videocassette recorders, Atari video computer systems, Panasonic Teenyvision TV sets, small pizzas or medium Cokes.

You can't win without a card, so come to Godfather's Pizza' and get yours today!

Open daily at 11am for lunch. Sunday at 4pm

SOUTH 48th & Hwy 2 - 483-4129 NORTH 48th & Vine - 466-8264 DOWNTOWN 12th & "Q" - 474-6000

Godfather's Pizza



upstairs in the Glass Menagerie No purchase necessary. Must be 16 or older to play. Game ends February 28th, 1982 or when supplies are exhausted at participating Godfather's Pizza" Restaurants. Void where prohibited by law

BEST PRICES The Time! On Records And Tapes 237 S. 70th 230 N. 10th

Buy 1 Pitcher Get One Free

THE WATERHOLE





Spend a few weekends helping us evaluate pharmaceuticals and we'll pay you up to \$700

- Fully explained studies
- · Medically supervised
- · Free physical

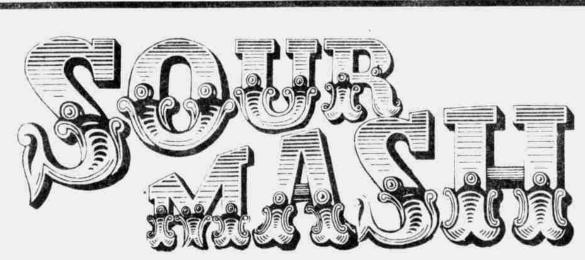
To qualify, you must be a healthy male at least

Call 474-0627 weekdays to find out how you can earn extra money for tuition.



Lincoln, Nebraska 68502

48 years' experience in medical research



Tonight through Saturday

COMING SOON

Luther Allison - January 20 Bo Ramsey and the Sliders - January 22 The Morells - January 28

Watch our Posters for the other Attractions including:

Cocktail Shorty and the Tablerockers

Every Monday

Open Stage most Wednesdays.



136 N. 14th