

responsible
fashion

sweaters :: accessories

knit toys :: handbags

knit :: leather work

stitching :: crochet

ethical manufacturing

About Us

AHA Bolivia is a fair trade, ethical manufacturing house specializing in alpaca and cotton knitwear, alpaca and cotton toys, leather handbags and recyclable plastic totes. We work with over 300 expert women artisans in Bolivia and employ hand made techniques to produce a wide range of high quality products.



History

About 15 years ago, Anna her husband Carlos had been put in charge of caring for a couple of orphaned pumas in Bolivia. To pay for the care, they made a trip to the United States to sell Bolivian artisan goods as a fundraiser. The fundraising stunt raised enough money to care for these orphaned pumas in Bolivia for one year.

It was from this fundraising venture that AHA Bolivia was formed. Anna started talking to artisans in Bolivia, becoming more and more impressed with the quality and variety of handiwork found throughout the country. She saw an opportunity to connect these women with designers and retailers in the US interested in handcrafted products. In a few short years, Anna had formed a fair trade manufacturing house. She held fair treatment of workers, quality product and environmentally respectful practices at the backbone of the company.

Today, AHA Bolivia works with over 300 artisans. Alpaca knitwear, knit toys, leather handbags and recyclable plastic totes are exported to the US, Mexico and Australia. The company is engaged in community development initiatives with the artisans, uses local materials in production, and is constantly trying to find new ways to be environmentally sensitive.

Fast Facts

AHA Bolivia

Founder: Anna

Hosbein Aliaga

Year founded: 1996

**Products: alpaca
knitwear, alpaca
& cotton toys,
leather
handbags,
recyclable plastic
handbags and
accessories**

**Values: Fair Trade,
women artisans,
handmade,
environmentally
respectful**

Social Responsibility

AHA Bolivia is a proud member of the World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO). As a fair trade manufacturing house, we ensure our artisans are being paid a fair wage, provide for safe working conditions, engage in open dialogue with all artisans, and respect the environment. The relationship we have with our artisans indeed goes beyond fair trade – this can be seen by the fact that most people we work with have been with us for over 15 years!

Our Commitment:

Some of the programs we have implemented in an attempt to create a fairer, more well-rounded work place are:

- Fruit tree giveaways
- Having a medical doctor on staff for check-ups
- Recycling office waste
- Using production scraps for new, innovative products
- Healthy diet workshops
- Skills training
- Microloans
- Capoeira classes





Mission

To provide designers, retailers and wholesalers with handmade manufacturing of superior quality knitwear, leather handbags and recyclable accessories in an ethical and environmentally respectful manner.

AHA Bolivia believes garment and accessories manufacturing can be done ethically. We work with designers, retailers and wholesalers to create their pieces in natural fibers and recyclable materials. We respect and utilize handmade manufacturing techniques that have taken generations to perfect. We value our workers and artisans and treat with dignity and fairness.

Values

- Appreciate our clients.
- Believe manufacturing can be ethical.
- Embrace versatility.
- Value hand production.
- Respect workers' rights.
- Support local and natural fibers

Employee Quote

"This is artistry for us, we were born with this skill, it is part of us. Some of the women can't even read or write, but they can create these beautiful pieces. We are proud of the work we do, knitting and weaving."

-Berta, master knitter



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