Started by two social workers who were concerned about improving the lives of street children, single mothers, and ethnic minorities, Mai Handicrafts employs nearly 300 artisans—80% of whom are women. In addition to providing training and marketing for artisan groups located around the country, Mai also seeks to preserve and promote traditional Vietnamese crafts including ceramics, basketry, and fiber arts.

“I used to work as a receptionist for another company, but now I make nearly three times my old salary creating paper art. I love this work because it’s beautiful.”

— Tran Thi Kha, artisan