

Carol Reimer-Wiebe

Global Citizen Awards 2020

Carol Reimer-Wiebe has lived in Saskatoon for the past 30 years, and in those years she has been very involved in her community. When the youngest of her three children started Grade 1, Carol took on a two-year Volunteer Service position with Mennonite Central Committee, and began working at the Ten Thousand Villages store.

When asked why she started in Fair Trade, Carol explained that she could effortlessly 'plug in' to the system. Moreover, Carol loves working with volunteers as they share her similar passion and moral values.

Making a difference to people around the world is important to Carol. Through her work at Ten Thousand Villages, she is able to live by her values and ensure that customers get good quality, useful products. Each item, from a bar of soap to an exquisitely crafted rug, helps put food on the table for another family and allows Canadians to participate in a well-known international venture, operating for over 70 years. Her work supports livelihoods and ensures artisans and other producers are compensated fairly, who are in turn able to contribute to their communities in the global south.



Talking with Carol



What does Global Citizenship mean to you?

"To me a Global Citizen is someone who is aware of all peoples – those nearby and those far away. This person would also work to make sure that relationships are built with everyone."



Where do you find Inspiration?

"I find inspiration from a variety of people – those that Ten Thousand Villages purchases from, our customers, my staff and volunteers and my colleagues."

What do you feel is one of the biggest challenges currently facing our global community?

"I am a firm believer in good communication. I feel the more we communicate and listen to each other, the better our relationships will be. If we are able to communicate with others, we will understand each other and will be able to work together to build a better world. I am sure many of the challenges we face in our communities could be solved by listening and talking with each other before action is taken."