Bibi and Me Project

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Bibi and Me is a side project from the charity ‘So They Can’ based in Sydney, Australia. ‘So They Can’ is an organization that fundraises for education in Kenya and Tanzania. My project was to work with the Bibi and Me project director to get the baskets ‘Kiondos’ that volunteers bring back from Kenya to sell in various markets across Sydney and on their website.

Biggest Successes

- Improving the Bibi and Me website to include more about the empowering women that make our baskets
- Getting our website (and organization) on the Fair Trade Association Certified by the Australian Government
- Setting up an Etsy account for Bibi and Me
- Working with the lovely community of Northbridge (a suburb of Sydney) to set up a temporary Christmas shop to sell our baskets with other local artisans
- Setting up a market for a large accounting firm in Sydney’s Central Business District
- Updating Bibi and Me’s website with the correct amount of products and selling so many baskets that we had to get more!

Reflection

I volunteered to work on the Bibi and Me Project from August 2019 to March 2020 and during that time I met a bunch of wonderful people trying to improve the education system in Kenya and Tanzania. I met wonderful volunteers at the markets we put on, and also the lovely people who worked countless hours to make ‘So They Can’ and Bibi and Me all happen. I helped with photos, writing, and creating our Etsy account and improving the Bibi and Me website. I also set up our Christmas Markets to sell baskets. Overall, I think the most empowering thing from this project was to see that charities exist in every country. Being from Logan, UT, I grew up with Global Village gifts as my inspiration for a fair trade shop. With Bibi and Me, I got to create a fair trade shop in Australia that does something equally as empowering as the amazing fair trade gift shop that I grew up with. Not only did we set up markets and sell baskets in person but now we have an online shop and Etsy account for the modern fair trade shopper in Australia.

Meet Some of the Makers:

- Mary
- Tabitha
- Gladys

Events & Personal Photos

Presented by Ileah Johnson