

COMMON THREAD

Craftworks is a program that supports people with complex multiple barriers (such as intellectual disabilities, life-long mental health barriers, physical disabilities, age barriers, under-employed, single parents at home, etc.) who are not able to work on a regular basis. The program provides opportunities for participants to create craft items and receive supplemental income. The program has three streams:

- **Onsite Craft Therapy Group** is for individuals with high needs whose main focus is social engagement. The group meets at Common Thread once a week and prepares kits and other items for the Home Crafters. Kits consist of the pieces required to create an item. Additionally, participants take part in fun crafting workshops in which they learn how to make cards, bracelets or other items that they can take home. This stream of the Craftworks Program is strictly therapeutic and not geared to income generation.



- **Home Crafters** are homebound individuals who are interested in making additional income to supplement the disability and other benefits they receive from the government. The Home Crafters drop off completed kits and pick up new kits, or the Program Manager drops off new kits and picks up the completed items. These visits also provide an opportunity for the Home Crafters to have a connection to the community and for the Program Manager to notice any issues reducing wellbeing that the Home Crafters might be experiencing.

- **The Maker Group** consists of individuals whose goal is to start their own home-crafting business and who need assistance in realizing their goal. In consultation with the Program Manager they design and produce items which we purchase from them wholesale to sell at our online store and at other market venues. We also introduce them to business skills such as financial literacy, pricing and budgeting at workshops where they learn with and from their peers.





When someone joins the **Craftworks Program**, they will meet with the Program Manager to discuss which stream will be the best fit for them. They will be able to either join it as a therapy option and join the Wednesday morning activities group at our premises on Venables Street, or they can join as Home Crafters.

For the **Onsite Craft Therapy Group**:

- No prior crafting or sewing skills are necessary, just an interest in this type of activity
- Basic hand-eye coordination
- Indication from the individual or their support team that craft therapy would be beneficial to them
- Ability to function as part of a small team and to take instruction from the Program Manager

For the **Home Crafters**:

- We provide materials and / or kits for the items that need to be made
- We pay per completed piece, provided the item has passed quality control
- Participants can pick up new kits and drop off completed items, but if they are not able to travel to Common Thread, the Program Manager can arrange to pick up completed items and drop off supplies at their home

For the **Maker Group**:

- We work with each individual in determining what type of products they will make for our Craftworks Product Line
- The Maker provides a sample of their product or design first and if accepted, we purchase an amount of the completed items at wholesale price, provided the item has passed quality control
- Any additional orders from customers will be passed along to the Maker to fulfill at their cost and they will receive the full retail amount.
- The Maker Group team are supplied with materials for the products we buy wholesale from them. The Makers are then to **buy their own materials and supplies** when they receive additional orders from customers.
- The Maker Group is there to help individuals to start their own business by providing an initial wholesale opportunity for their products, and by showcasing their products to other customers.

The Craftworks Program is not a training program but a program that offers homebound crafters and other individuals with social and work barriers an opportunity to generate supplemental income, and to become more socially engaged in the community. It also offers craft therapy activities for individuals who are not able to work but who would benefit from social engagement and community connectedness.

Kim Pretzer, Craftworks Program Manager

Common Thread (604) 736-2113 Ext 2 craftworks@commonthread.ca