Written by MARK JAEGER
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Port's Fair Trade for All offers imported goods,insights into economy

FAIR TRADE FOR ALL owner Allen Christian (above) showed a tagua nut, used in Ecuador for ivory-like carvings. Below, taking part in the ribbon-cutting at the Port Washington store were (below) Gail Bennett-Christian, son Yacob, and Allen Christian. *Photos by Sam Arendt*

As the owners of the new Port Washington store Fair Trade for All, Allen Christian and his wife Gail Bennett-Christian believe their goal is to educate consumers as much as it is to sell products from around the globe.

The store in the Harbor Square building on Grand Avenue opened earlier this month.

"Many people associate fair trade with church work and charity because most people are first exposed to the idea at church fairs," Christian said.

"What it really is about is creating sustainable economies for indigenous people. However, it doesn't mean having to pay a higher price for items. It is buying quality products and clothing from working people so they can make a living and raise families in their homelands."

Christian comes by his global perspective naturally, having been born in Morocco and lived around the world.

He and his wife opened the first Fair Trade for All store in Milwaukee, moving it to Wauwatosa two years ago.

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