



By Cory Soal
R.H.A.D.

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COMMUNITY

MOM AND DAUGHTER CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

MELANIE HENNESSEY
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A local mother-daughter duo is getting creative in the name of charity.

Kelly Friis and her 10-year-old daughter Shyla have been busy making magnets to raise money for the Pendo Project, a grassroots organization that empowers women and children in east Africa through education and entrepreneurship programs.

"It (making magnets) was a small project at first, then we decided to do it for Pendo Project, and that's how we started raising money," explained the Grade 4 George Kennedy student.

The charity is headed up by Kelly's longtime friend, Tracy Pepper, who was

moved by the need she saw while visiting Africa and decided to do something to make a difference.

"I think it's such a great project," said Kelly. "And it's nice that we (Shyla and I) get to do something like this together. I'm trying to teach my kids a bit of humility. It's important they learn how to give, knowing they're not getting something in return for it."

Shyla is no stranger to doing good. She serves as a WE ambassador at her school, where she also helped pilot Pendo's letter exchange program. During the last school year, Shyla's class made Christmas cards by hand for children in Tanzania and Uganda, and took part in a video exchange.

She and her mom make



Melanie Hennessey/Torstar

Kelly Friis and 10-year-old daughter Shyla display some of the magnets they've made to raise money for the Pendo Project.

the magnets using glass beads, cute graphics and Mod Podge. The pair hopes to hit some local vendor shows in the spring to sell their creations.

In the meantime, the magnets are available to purchase at Scorpio's Peace and Polish, 134 Guelph St., Georgetown.

Kelly is also hoping to add ceramic tile coasters to her lineup of products that rais-

es funds for the charity.

Donations will support the Pendo Project's variety of initiatives, which include an after-school centre for children in the rural area of Uganda and an entrepreneurial program for women focused on animal husbandry. Since it's entirely operated by volunteers, all dollars go toward the programs.

For more information, visit pendoproject.org.



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