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## **ANCHAL PROJECT RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS GRANT FROM DINING FOR WOMEN**

Louisville, KY. (April 11, 2016)

Anchal is excited to announce it has received the first \$20,000 installment of a selective \$60,000 sustained program funding grant from Dining For Women. Starting this month, the funds will be put into action to kickstart Anchal's newest project Designing Colorful Change (DCC). As the environmental and social damages of today's industrialized textile system become more apparent, this program couldn't begin at a better time.

DCC is an exciting and unprecedented project that will introduce new proficiencies and careers in natural dyeing to the commercial sex workers in Ajmer, India. The program will train and employ 35 new women in natural dyeing and offer the 100 current artisans the opportunity to expand their skills in the design and textile industry. A natural dye initiative will serve to re-establish lost traditions of natural dyeing techniques and promote eco-friendly practices.

"We recognize both the need for innovation solutions to tackle the social inequality faced by anchal artisans and the power of design to reorient and refresh conventional thinking about how to solve these inequalities," said Colleen Clines, who founded the company five years ago. Colleen, Anchal's CEO, added, "We are excited to continue to avail our resources and expand life-changing opportunities in natural dyeing for more women in 2016."

Dining for Women's prestigious grant will allow Anchal to expand their program to include:

- Infrastructure for a dye house
- Expert personnel to conduct skills training
- Stipends for new artisans
- Program development

Today there are over 30,000 commercial sex workers in Ajmer. International sisterhood is at the heart of both Dining for Women and Anchal Project. DCC is an investment in a better future for a woman, her family and the entire community.

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**About Anchal:**

Anchal (ahn-chal) is a Louisville based non-profit social enterprise that address the exploitation of women around the world by using design thinking to create employment opportunities, products and markets that support empowerment. What started out as a small group of students passionate about designing change for oppressed women now touches the lives of over 150 commercial sex workers in India. By providing alternative careers in textiles, Anchal helps women rediscover their self-worth, potential and creativity.

**About Dining for Women:**

Dining for Women is a global giving circle dedicated to transforming lives and eradicating poverty among women and girls in the developing world. Through member education and engagement, as well as the power of collective giving, Dining for Women funds grassroots organizations that empower women and girls in developing countries and promote gender equity.