



## Pencil Pouches for Students in Tanzania, Africa

### For each pencil pouch you will need:

- One 9 ½" x 13" piece of fabric (Cotton or cotton/polyester blend fabric. Prints, plaids or any plain colored fabrics are acceptable.)
- One 16" piece of ribbon (1/4" or 3/8" wide. Please choose a ribbon that does not fray at the ends.)
- 4 pencils (or 2 pencils & 2 pens with blue or black ink)
- One 6-inch ruler (plastic or metal with inches and centimeters)
- A pencil top eraser for each pencil (optional)

An alternative to ribbon: Braid 3 pieces of yarn into a finished piece of braided yarn that is 16-inches long (unstretched measurement) including an overhand knot on each side, and trimmed to about ¼-inch beyond the knots on each end of braid (see below).



### Notes:

- Use 5/8" seam allowances when sewing.
- Finished open pencil pouch is approximately 8 ¼" x 6"
- Finished folded/closed pencil pouch is approximately 8 ¼" x 2"

### Instructions:

1. Serge each 9 ½" edge of the cut fabric (or turn each 9 ½" edge under ¼" and topstitch).
2. Fold the piece of fabric in half, right sides together, with the serged / hemmed edges together (folded to an approximate size of 9 ½" x 6 ¼")
3. Sew each of the 6 ¼" sides of the pouch together (using a 5/8" seam). Zig-zag or serge along each of these two seam edges to prevent fraying.
4. Turn the top (open) edge of the pouch under ¼" and topstitch.
5. Turn the pouch right-side out. Press with an iron, if needed.
6. Sew the ribbon (or braided yarn) to the middle of one side of the pouch, backstitching and forward stitching to secure. (IMPORTANT: Be sure you don't sew through both sides of the pouch).
7. Place pencils/pens and ruler in pouch. From the open side, fold over one-third of pouch, and then fold over again. Tie ribbon / yarn around folded pouch.



Completed pencil pouches can be shipped to the following address at any time:

Hearts in Unity ♥ P.O. Box 41 ♥ Germantown, WI 53022 ♥ USA

Questions? Please email us at [hearts\\_in\\_unity@yahoo.com](mailto:hearts_in_unity@yahoo.com)

**Monetary donations to help offset the cost to ship your pencil pouches to Tanzania are welcome. Shipping costs are approx. \$4 per pound.** If you can help with a donation to cover the cost to ship your pencil pouches to Tanzania, you can include a bank check (U.S. banks only), payable to Hearts in Unity, with the pencil pouches that you send to us. We also accept online donations to cover these shipping costs at [www.heartsinunity.org](http://www.heartsinunity.org) (click the donate button and write PENCIL POUCH SHIPPING in the message box when you make your donation.)

**Thank you for your help and for opening your heart to the orphans and at-risk children of Tanzania**