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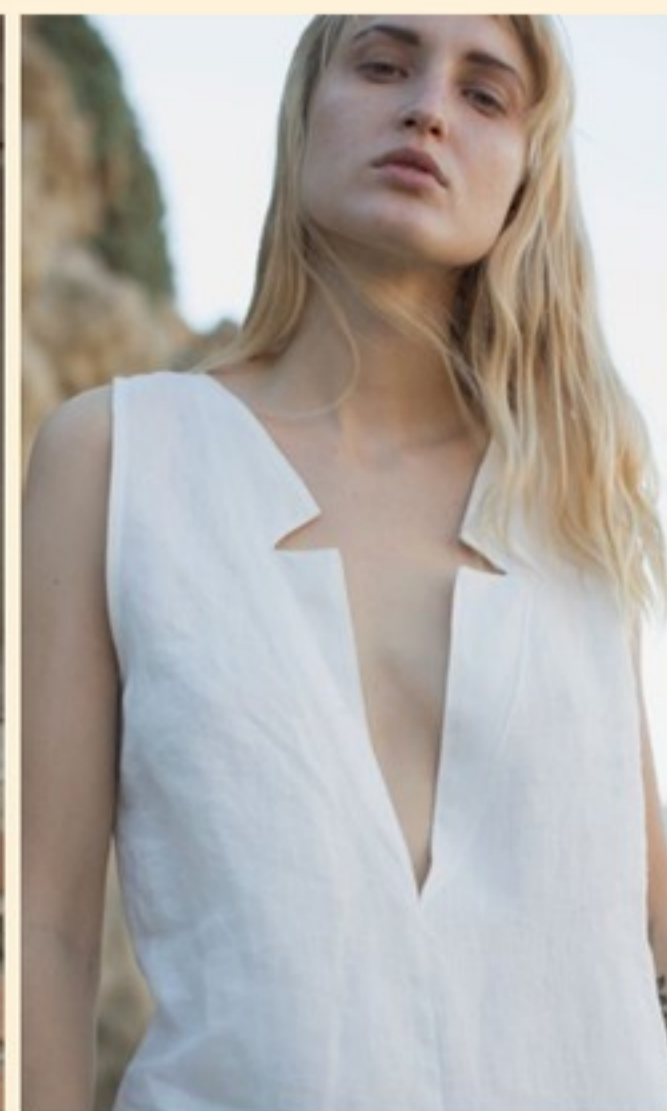
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GOOD FOR GIRLS

With her sustainable fashion brand, Faircloth & Supply, designer Phoebe Dahl supports girls' education in Nepal.

When Los Angeles-based fashion designer Phoebe Dahl visited India for the first time in 2012, she was overwhelmed by the extreme poverty she witnessed. Upon returning home, Dahl, who was about to debut a sustainable clothing brand called Faircloth & Supply, decided to add a charitable component to her business.

"I wanted to do something with girls' education," says Dahl, whose grandfather was celebrated children's book author Roald Dahl. "I'm designing women's clothing, so I committed to being a women's empowerment brand." After doing some research, she found and partnered with an organization based in Nepal that gives micro loans to impoverished women and scholarships to young girls. For every piece of Faircloth & Supply clothing sold, Dahl donates two school uniforms, school supplies and a scholarship to a schoolgirl in Nepal. Dahl says she chose to do this because most schools in Nepal require students to wear uniforms, a seemingly innocuous rule that "stops many children from getting an education because their families can't afford to buy a uniform," she says.

According to the Nike Foundation, if 10 percent more girls go to secondary school, a country's economy grows by three percent. Girls who receive an education are more likely to marry later and raise fewer children, and are less vulnerable to HIV infection and human trafficking. Dahl says that in some towns in Nepal where sex trafficking is prevalent, young girls wear their uniforms as a

form of protection. "The kidnappers realize that these girls are educated and that they have a good support system. They target girls that don't have that."

Dahl's altruistic ideals extend to the clothes themselves. A champion of slow and sustainable fashion, Dahl says that Faircloth & Supply's chic separates, in neutral palettes and clean lines, are designed to hold a seasonless appeal. The brand's cornerstone is linen, which Dahl has adored since she was a little girl playing in her grandmother's antique fabric and furniture shop in Santa Fe, New Mexico, which was brimming with 18th-century linen napkins, aprons and heritage textiles.

Linen leaves a small carbon footprint during its production process, and, it's effortlessly chic and versatile, the designer says. "You can wear linen super-starched and crispy and play with pleats or wear it natural and completely wrinkly," says Dahl. "You can get away with wearing big, oversize comfy clothes and still look like a goddess because it's linen."

Whether donning linen or not, Dahl may be looked upon as another kind of goddess by the Nepali kids she's helping. Or, as her grandfather once said, "I think probably kindness is my number one attribute in a human being. I'll put it before any of the things like courage or bravery or generosity or anything else.... If you're kind, that's it." *fairclothsupply.com* – Sahar Khan

"I'm designing women's clothing, so I committed to being a women's empowerment brand."



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