

2023-24 Diocese of Texas Daughter's of the King Service Project Announced

At the Fall Assembly held at Camp Allen September 16-17, 2023 those in attendance voted on the **Women of St. Mark's Shower Ministry** as our next service project.

Born out of a desire to provide homeless women in Austin an opportunity to take a warm shower in a safe environment, the Shower Ministry takes care of the need for personal hygiene without the risk of personal possessions being taken.

The ministry is operated at the Trinity Center, which is located in the basement of St. David's Episcopal Church. Every week since its inception in June 2010, volunteers from St. Mark's Episcopal Church arrive at the Trinity Center to secure and prepare the bathrooms for showers. The women are given a towel and washcloth to use and are provided with soap, shampoo, conditioner and clean underwear. Razors, combs, toothbrushes/toothpaste and socks are also provided. There is a shopping table with items they can take with them, such as travel size shampoo conditioner, lotion, hair picks and brushes, and hair doodles. Sometimes we have donated make-up, perfume, backpacks, bags, and jewelry. The neighbors are given 20 minutes to shower.

We are asking all DOK Chapters in the Diocese of Texas to contribute to this ministry by supporting the Shower Ministry's Amazon wish list. All you have to do is point your camera phone at the QR code below or type into your browser <https://amzn.to/47ZnFro> and it will open the Amazon Wish List page. You can choose which items you would like to donate and then go to your cart. **When you get to the page asking for a shipping address, change the radial button to "Shower Ministry c/o Pat Bullock's Gift Registry"**. Finish your purchase and that's it. Your selection will be shipped directly to the Shower Ministry. It's just that easy!



If you would like to make a donation, checks should be made payable to St. Mark's Episcopal Church with "Shower Ministry" noted in the memo line and sent to St. Mark's Episcopal Church 2128 Barton Hills Drive Austin, TX 78704. You may also donate toiletries by bringing them to our next Assembly. You may contact Pat Bullock, the coordinator at pnjbull1965@aol.com; text/call 512-983-3937.

Neighbors' Comments

"It means a lot to me that they take into consideration our privacy. They're very caring in that way."

"I love the female spirit of concern for the needs of women. I feel like the way they treat us is special."

"I wish we had more time, but otherwise it's a real luxury to shower in private with clean towels provided. I may go into the shower grumpy, but I always come out happy."

"I love taking showers here - it's my spa day."

Prayer for the Homeless

Bless those whose once soft, downy pillow has now morphed into the cold bitter concrete.

Shelter those whose homes are now a tattered mosaic of cardboard boxes and pieces of plastic sheeting.

Watch over those who no longer live within the safe confines of a warm, loving home.

Sustain those whose stomachs growl as they search desperately through the city's refuse cans for anything that once resembled food.

Dry the tears from the faces of those who stand on the precipice of losing all hope.

Protect these precious nomads from all hurt, harm and danger; please give them stability that they seek in their lives.

Touch the heart of those who can, to reach out and provide sustenance and encouragement for their debilitated bodies and somber spirits.

Let not our eyes or hearts turn away from seeing their painful faces; let us remember that while they have lost much, their humanity is still intact.

Comfort them in their hour of need, we pray. Amen

Author unknown