

Plastic Bags Make Plastic Mats

Providing those Experiencing Homelessness a Comfortable Sleeping Mat

Plastic Bags Make Plastic Mats (PBPM) is an NCJW | MI Green subcommittee project, committed to making sleeping mats from plastic bags for those experiencing homelessness. These mats provide a dry, easily cleaned and comfortable sleeping surface. At the same time, they offer a partial solution to the plastic pollution problem.

How Can You Participate?

It's simple. There are multiple ways to get involved:

- BAG COLLECTION
 - Collect used clean, plastic bags (straighten them if you can) and drop them off at the NCJW | MI office*; **or**
- MAKE PLARN – *see instructions and video below*
 - Volunteer to make yarn out of the bags (“plarn”) by cutting the bags into strips and rolling into balls. Use your own bags or pick them up at the NCJW | MI office* If you don't plan on making the mats, drop the plarn off at the NCJW | MI office*; **or**
- KNIT/CROCHET THE MATS – *see instructions and video below*
 - For those who love to knit or crochet, you can use your skills to make the mats. Use your own plarn balls or pick them up at the NCJW | MI office*. Drop finished mats off at the office or call the NCJW | MI office* to arrange for pickup); **or**
- DO IT ALL
 - Take on the entire process and create your own artistic vision of these beautiful mats! Drop off finished mats in the main lobby of the NCJW | MI office building*.

*NCJW | MI address is: 26400 Lahser Rd, Southfield, MI 48033
Suite #306

*Phone number: 248-355-3300, ext. 0, leave a message

We will partner with organizations who serve those experiencing homelessness to get the mats to those who need them most.

If you are interested in becoming part of the NCJW Green Committee, we'd love to have you. Simply email us at ncjwgreen@gmail.com and we'll get in touch with you.

By volunteering, in any way, for this project, you will not only be helping those who are experiencing homelessness, you will also be doing your part for Tikkun Olam, repairing the planet. Plastic bags are a serious global problem as these statistics show:

- According to the EPA about 500 billion to 1 trillion plastic bags are produced each year worldwide requiring billions of pounds of fossil fuels and billions of gallons of fresh water.
- What we get in return is billions of pounds of solid waste as well as millions of tons of CO₂ released into the atmosphere each year.
- Improper disposal of these bags, which never completely break-down, increases the risk of severe flooding by clogging storm drains and other sources where water accumulates.
- These bags pollute the oceans and shorelines and cause the death of hundreds of thousands of avian and marine wildlife per year.

