Woven Together

A Ministry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church New Orleans

St. Paul's is making sleeping mats for persons experiencing homelessness. Mats are made from recycled plastic grocery or shopping bags. The mats keep a person dry and insulated from the ground or pavement. Bags are upcycled and not in landfills or litter.

Everyone can participate at some level and **it's free.** Clean plastic recycled grocery or shopping bags are the foundation of this ministry. Without bags, there will be no mats. Saving and bringing bags is level 1 participation. (It takes 600-800 bags for one 3 ft x 6ft mat).

1 – Save, bring bags to the Narthex. 2 – Fold bags. (See correct way below). 3 – Fold and cut the bags.

4 – Fold, cut and tie bags into PLARN (plastic bag yarn). 5 – Make a mat or many mats.

They can be woven without a loom, croched with a Q size crochet hook, or knitted. Learn how at church.

You, your spouse, partner, friend, children or grandchildren can all help! Ages 4 and up can fold! Older kids can cut. Work alone or in groups.This can be both an individual and family or group ministry. We are working at home and we meet together on the 1st and 3rd Sundays each month at about 11:20 to fold, cut, make plarn and teach others how to crochet or weave by hand!

Fold bags straight, then in half and in half again. Snip off the the closed end and cut off handles also. These are used to weave. For crocheting, cut bag down the center. Unfold the cut bag. This produces a loop. The loops are tied together (see tutorial) to make PLARN (plastic yarn, see a ball in top photo). Whole bags for weaving, half bags for chrochet. Do not tie the whole bags together.

Crocheting: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yr_WHW_tGSE * **PLEASE NOTE** * The video shows cutting the bags into strips. **Please cut bags in half.** Strips make the mats too thin, heavy and you have to crochet more rows to get the full length.

Weaving without a loom: https://youtu.be/AVDDN93qGj0?si=nQ0zb-0qqOTGMuHe. Use whole bags.

For more information, please text or email Dr. Jeanne jrobertson@stpauls-lakeview.org 504-330-2549.

More folders, cutters and matmakers are needed. Is God calling you to help?