

# Raise awareness for women facing homelessness



## PILLOWCASE PROJECT

Over 4,700 women have been served through Dégagé Ministries' Open Door Women's Center since 2003. These women, many of them fleeing from unthinkable circumstances, have found shelter and community at the Open Door.

Our goal is to collect 4,700 pillowcases each symbolizing a woman who has laid her head down at the Open Door.

The pillowcases will be on display at Ah-Nab-Awen Park from September 10 - October 1 to create a powerful narrative concerning the increasing number of women facing homelessness.

## BE A PART OF IT!

- Decorate any new or gently-used standard bed pillowcase.
- Activate your office, school, church and/or neighborhood to decorate pillowcases.
- Donate new or gently-used standard bed pillowcases for women staying at the Open Door to decorate.
- Please refrain from using glitter or other fragile materials to decorate your pillowcase(s).

## DROP OFF LOCATIONS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 2

- Dégagé Ministries: M - F, 7:00am - 7:00pm / Sat & Sun, 7:00am - 12:00pm
- Lions & Rabbits Center for the Arts: Wednesday between 11am - 4pm, (1264 Plainfield Ave. NE).
- Lake Michigan Credit Union: Mon-Thurs: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM  
Fri: 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM, Sat: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Alpine  
4560 Alpine Ave.

Cascade  
1210 Spaulding Ave.

Knapps Corner  
2024 Celebration Ave.

Hudsonville  
4100 32nd. Ave.

84th Street  
904 84th St.

## QUESTIONS?

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*We are so excited to share Dégagé Ministries' Pillowcase Project, part of the new Bridge GR event, with the community! It would not be possible without the support of Lake Michigan Credit Union, Fence Consultants, DGRI and the city of Grand Rapids.*

# Pillowcase Design Tips

- Use any color new or gently used pillowcase for your project.
- Place a piece of cardboard slightly smaller than the pillowcase in the pillowcase to prevent fabric markers or paint to bleed through the side you are working on.
- Use any color(s) permanent Sharpie, fabric marker, paint pen, fabric paint, fabric ink and/or fabric dye to create your design. You can create your design freehand or use stencils/templates, stamps, sponges, etc. Ideally, avoid using glitter or embellishments that could come off during transport or during the exhibit.
- Build your design around a favorite quote, verse, picture or message. Or tell your life story in words and/or images. Designs containing offensive language or graphics, or political-related themes cannot be included in the exhibit. If you would like to add your name, please use only your first name. If you are representing an organization, feel free to add that name in full.
- If using fabric paint, you can do a quick sketch of the design on the pillowcase prior to painting on a piece of paper. If you like it, then use a pencil to lightly sketch on the pillowcase, as well. As long as you are painting over it, a light pencil mark works well.
- Sponges or brushes work great for filling in large shapes that are outlined or stamped. Sponges can also be used for texturing by dipping in fabric paint and then layering on the pillowcase.
- Fabric markers work very well with stencils. For an outline, run the tip along the edge of a stencil, keeping the pen upright so it doesn't slip underneath. To "color in" a stencil design, you can do it with the stencil in place or remove it.
- Fabric markers work great for printing on fabric with rubber stamps or any flattish, non-absorbent item (i.e. half of an apple or potato, hand, leaf, etc.). Just add color to the stamp by running the fabric marker over it, turn stamp over and put on fabric, press down firmly and the color comes off the stamp onto the fabric.
- Sharpies are a great choice but your design should be heat set to guarantee permanence. To add the right amount of heat to set any Sharpie design you can either use an iron set on the highest heat, ironing for a few minutes, or a clothes dryer set on high heat, placing the decorated pillowcase in the dryer for approximately 15 minutes.
- Tie-dyeing your pillowcase with fabric dye is a fun way to add a lot of color all at once and create a completely original design.

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Thank You