



Fleece Blankets

THE BLANKET YOU ARE MAKING WILL BE DONATED TO BALTIMORE AREA COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTERS FOR INDIVIDUALS IN NEED. THE BLANKET WILL PROVIDE WARMTH AND COMFORT IN THE COLD WINTER MONTHS, ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WHOSE HOMES MAY NOT BE AS WARM AND COMFORTABLE AS THEY NEED.

IMPORTANT FACTS:

In Maryland, there is a shortage of affordable housing for low income households. Many people are spending more than half of their income on housing, meaning they are more likely to sacrifice other necessities like heat, healthy food, healthcare, or internet access to pay the rent.¹

Because of income loss related to the COVID-19 pandemic, 1 in 5 low-income renters nationally reported being behind on rent. While local and federal laws have prevented evictions, many households that have missed payments may be unable to cover their back rents and will eventually face eviction.²

As people spend more time at home because of quarantines and shutdowns, they are also facing higher utility bills, which will also be hardest on low-income renters.³

CONSIDER THIS QUOTE:

“No journey is too hard, if you know you’re going home.”

- Rabbi Israel Kagan (The Chofetz Chaim)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What does the word “home” mean to you?
- What makes the place you live feel like home?
- How can we think about the quote above for someone who may be receiving the blanket you are making- someone whose home may be underheated this winter because of difficulty paying the utility bills?

¹ <https://nlihc.org/housing-needs-by-state/maryland>

² <https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/blog/pandemic-racial-injustice-and-climate-change-exacerbate-americas-housing-problems>

³ <https://www.jchs.harvard.edu/blog/new-strains-on-home-utilities-during-the-pandemic>

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IMPORTANT FACT:

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many people to lose their jobs, making it harder to pay for rent and utilities like electricity, heat and internet.

DID YOU KNOW?

The traditional Jewish bedtime prayer, called the *Hashkivenu*, asks G-d to shelter and protect us as we sleep.

- What makes you feel sheltered and protected?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How will the blanket you are making help someone whose home might not be as comfortable as they would like?
- Have you ever received a handmade gift? How did it feel?
- What is your wish for the person who will receive the blanket you are making?

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