



## Shower Kits

Dozens of people come into OurCalling for a shower and hygiene resources every day, one of those individuals is David. David is met by an OurCalling security officer at the base of the cross in the front parking lot to get on the signup list before he grabs a cup of coffee and pastry.

A short time later, David's name is called over the intercom to come to the guest service desk. David is greeted at the counter by a volunteer named Kathy. Kathy gives him a warm welcome and starts asking how he is doing, and what clothing and hygiene items he needs. David starts with the basics as most do. He wants a washcloth, soap, shampoo, and conditioner to clean himself in the shower –it's been a while since David had a shower. A couple of weeks or maybe a couple of months, he can't be sure. He wants a razor and shaving cream to clean up his facial hair that he hasn't been able to trim in over a year. He wants deodorant and wet wipes to give him the semblance of cleanliness for the next couple of weeks while he figures out what is next. He wants reading glasses so he can see the information in the green booklet the woman at the counter gave him. After, Kathy asks David a simple question that leaves him wondering about what more this place can offer him, "Can I pray for you?" David does not believe in God, though he was raised in the church, and the circumstances that life has handed him have been far too unfair for God to be real. In spite of his unbelief, he says yes.

After Kathy prays for David, he gets up and goes back to his spot at the table waiting for his turn to shower. While David waits, he thinks about Kathy's prayer for him. David is called up over the intercom once more that day, but this time for a shower. He heads back to the woman in the green shirt at the front counter, she smiles as she hands him a shopping basket with clothing items in his sizes and hygiene products, as well as a towel to borrow, and points him to shower number 5. David enters and closes the door behind him. A sigh of relief washes over him as he takes in the privacy he has been gifted. David showers and 15 minutes later there is a knock on the door letting him know that his time is up. He collects his belongings and takes one last look in the mirror - the man looking back at him is not the man that walked into this bathroom a couple of minutes ago, this man has hope.

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OurCalling provides showers for an average of 150 individuals experiencing homelessness each week at our outreach facility in Downtown Dallas. In one year, we provide almost eight thousand showers. In providing showers, we are caring for people with dignity. OurCalling is the only homeless service provider in Dallas County that provides completely private showers. Our guests have access to a sink, toilet, and shower where they can close the door and have complete privacy. We believe in meeting every individual's personalized needs for hygiene resources when they go in to take a shower, but some basic items are always requested. A shower kit simplifies that process for our staff and volunteers. A shower kit is a quart-sized ziplock bag including the following items:

- New washcloth



- Travel-Sized Body Wash or Bar of Soap
- Travel-Sized Shampoo
- Travel-Sized Deodorant

When someone walks into OurCalling, our goal is to get them off the streets and introduce them to Jesus. When someone has not had a shower in months, is living in dirty clothing, and hasn't eaten in days - they do not want to hear about Jesus or programs to get out of homelessness - they want their physical needs to be met. This starts with a shower.