

Monterey Esthetician Helps Inner Beauty Shine



Photo: Keili Ubbell

Shelley Bennett Skincare is located in a private building in downtown Monterey. In her free time, Bennett helps homeless women with skincare and feeling better about themselves.

Shelley Bennett's charming skincare retreat is located on a quiet block on the Path of History in downtown Monterey. Formerly of the Spa at Pebble Beach (where she still works part-time) as well as the Four Seasons Beverly Wilshire and other top spas, Bennett creates a soothing environment to provide facials, waxing and makeup applications.

"I wanted to create an elegant, chic, upscale and clean environment

that's not pretentious," she says. "I want people to get a treatment and relax at the same time."

Product lines include Caudalie Paris, Image Skincare and SilkPeel, and every facial is customized to the client.

When not working, the busy mother of two volunteers to help homeless women at Shelter Outreach Plus, soon to be known as Community Homeless Solutions.

"I wanted to reach out to women in need and help them feel better about getting back into the workforce," Bennett says. "It ties into skincare and makeup. There are simple ways to maintain and freshen ourselves up."

Bennett describes her time with the women at the shelter as a very casual open forum, where they have coffee together and she gives the women mini facials, makeup lessons and some sample products.

"Some women have just gotten out of a bad situation, and some are there with their children," she says. "It's a transitional period and the whole program helps them to find a job, housing and the resources to get them in a place where they can be safe and strong internally. My goal is to give them some positive feedback and remind them of their God-given gifts. We all have our issues. They help me when we talk about parenting."

Bennett says the first time she met with the women and their children, she sat in her car and wept. "We are all going through the same emotions," she says. "It's so much less about vanity and more about the mental and spiritual!"

Shelley Bennett Skincare is located at 588 Houston St., Monterey. For more information, call 831/324-4611 or visit www.shelleyskin.com.

—Brett Wilbur