



# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

*"When you harvest the crops on your land, do not cut all the way to the corners of your field. Don't pick up the grain that falls on the ground. Leave it for the poor..." Leviticus 23:22*

CHRISTIAN ASSISTANCE MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2020

## CAM's COVID-19 Operations



CAM continues to operate through the pandemic. As we have shared during the initial shut down, we never closed our doors and moved our operations outside prioritizing the unsheltered homeless, financial assistance for prescriptions and food for all clients. CAM's emergency room model of service has never been more needed. CAM has been able to continue to adapt to this new normal through the support and help from thousands of individuals. We have been able to offer what is

needed (often a level of service that is 4 to 5 times what we used to do) while resuming the same level of service in other areas that we provided prior to the pandemic.

CAM has provided \$100,000 in rental assistance, 5,000 lunches per month, weekly clothing (including hygiene, new underwear and socks, feminine hygiene), monthly groceries (for those that are not homeless), financial assistance for utilities, ID recovery, and prescriptions, free mail service, a monthly outdoor clothing pantry, porta potties, hand washing stations, water, and showers. Our NW location has resumed normal hours and will be open Monday through Thursday starting October 1st. This is all without our hundreds of volunteers and setting up a new COVID safety and outdoor process. CAM will likely end 2020 having served closer to 70,000 which is 20,000 more than usual.

## How Can You Help

CAM's needs change on a weekly basis so check out our website ([cam-sa.org](http://cam-sa.org)) for ways you can help at home.

You can also contact our Volunteer Director to learn about a variety of weekly or one time volunteer opportunities.



[ekirtner@cam-sa.org](mailto:ekirtner@cam-sa.org)

## Donate Intentionally

- Sort through all of your donations first and separate by men's, women's, and children's items
- Label all of the bags/boxes you bring to CAM
- Only donate comfortable clothing

*Help us get necessary items into the hands of those that need it most in an efficient manner!*

## Queso Meltdown CANCELED

We're sadly announcing this year's 4th annual Queso Meltdown event has been canceled in lieu of COVID-19. Hopefully by next year so we can celebrate with loads and loads of queso next



November! This event has always benefitted Christian Assistance Ministry because all of the dollars raised at the Queso Meltdown go towards serving those less fortunate in San Antonio. If you find it in your hearts, we ask that you please still consider donating to the cause. You can easily donate from your computer or smart phone from the comfort of wherever you may be; just go to [cam-sa.org](http://cam-sa.org)/donate. Any dollar amount will help us!



*This years Back to School Backpack Drive helped over **350** kids receive school supplies for the school year!*

## SHARE YOUR HARVEST

During the Thanksgiving season CAM promotes a time for people to consider hosting a food drive, packaging up Thanksgiving items and donating food. Often our families won't be able to have a traditional Thanksgiving meal and are simply hungry for food in general. Through the generous donation of individuals, churches, and work place offices, the special Thanksgiving items will be a surprise for families that come to CAM seeking food. Please let us know if you are planning something special and when you might bring it to CAM by calling our office at (210) 223-4099 or email [skory@cam-sa.org](mailto:skory@cam-sa.org). Please go to [cam-sa.org](http://cam-sa.org) for a list of food items we collect during this drive.





**cam**  
christian  
assistance  
ministry

FOLLOW US ON



WWW.CAM-SA.ORG

**CAM DOWNTOWN**  
110 McCullough  
210.223.4099

**CAM NORTHWEST**  
5048 DeZavala  
210.697.5771

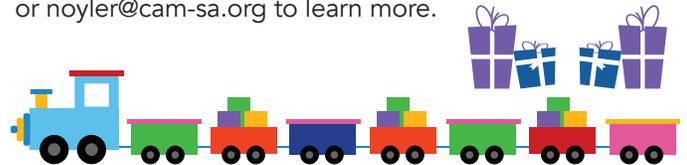
## THE FAMILY SHE NEEDED

CAM has many stories of families that come to us in desperation. Even though CAM is here to serve on an emergency basis, for some it becomes more long term. One story is about a senior citizen in her 80's. She has been coming to CAM for at least 15 years. She comes in like clockwork every two months needing food, clothing and financial assistance. During her last couple of visits, she has shown signs of dementia and unable to stand without assistance. CAM was able to connect her with an agency that will help her with an assisted living facility. She has no relatives or friends to support her as she gets older. CAM has been her safety net. We have been here for her all these years and now have helped her to connect with long term support. The emergency has become a lifetime event for this client who is on a fixed income. CAM remains constant in our commitment to serve her through our services or referrals.



## 'TIS THE SEASON TO BE JOLLY!

The CAM Christmas Store provides an emergency, free shopping experience to those in need. Parents get to select gifts that their children will like. Join us in sharing the joy of the season and making a difference in the lives of San Antonio families by donating new toys or hosting a toy drive at your home, work, or church. We need gifts for all ages (0-18 years) – infants to teenagers, boys & girls. All toy donations need to be new. We can also use new or used Christmas lights, decorations or gift wrapping – even partially used rolls of paper! Another way you can join us is to volunteer to help with the setup of the store and then assist the families when choosing toys during their appointment. Contact Nora Oyler at 210-223-4099 or noyler@cam-sa.org to learn more.



## CEO's Corner

There have been blessings to this Pandemic; although, I sometimes even hate to say that because the loss of life and resources has been devastating. While we stay dedicated to being a resource for our community the daily pressure to serve, be there, adapt and work with others has allowed God to work through us and show his presence. We have seen donations come in that we could not have expected or even asked for; we have individuals daily providing the sack lunches we need to feed our unsheltered homeless clients (a volume we could not keep up with on our own); others have brought lunch to our staff that are tired, hot and hungry after working at a feverish pace each morning from about 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to feed, clothe, and support so many with great need. God has even shown us some cool mornings making the outside work possible.

The other blessing has been the relationships we have formed with those we serve. Many of course know these are hard times and they are so grateful to come here daily. Folks like "MD" help us clean up the campus and even bring fresh vegetables from a small garden he planted. Many help us to come up with better processes or advise us on what would be most helpful to those we are serving. Folks like Miranda, Joe or Henry help keep others in line and keep the peace. There are so many 'God Bless You's' and smiles that even when we get worried, they lift us up too. God is good.



**Dawn White-Fosdick**

CAM's mission is to share the love of Christ by providing immediate assistance and encouragement to people in crisis. All are welcome. CAM is a San Antonio-based nonprofit providing services to 60,000 people annually. CAM helps working poor families, children, elderly, homeless, veterans etc. by providing food, clothing, and financial assistance to help people through a crisis or avoid a more serious crisis.