



# 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 2021

## DE JA VU ALL OVER AGAIN

As we head into the Fall of 2021, it feels a little like de ja vu. We are still dealing with COVID and now having to mask up again and protect ourselves. CAM is providing free weekly test to staff and doing everything we can to protect ourselves, volunteers and clients. CAM's commitment to this work of being a resource in our community for very vulnerable populations continues and our mission is solid. We are fully opened at both CAM locations. What is a little different, is that we are better prepared and we have learned so much about those we serve. We are doing new and innovative work with deeper partnerships in ways we could not have managed or known to do prior to the pandemic. CAM has doubled our monthly financial help to clients who need support with rent and utilities working hard to connect this support to other community help and housing solutions. We have increased our ability to help people with ID recovery due to work with Corazon, the police department, and our help in preparing clients for what it will take to get their ID (helping them become document ready). This ID recovery is linked to housing, shelter and employment. With our new Director of Homeless Services, we are part of a street outreach effort to help clients experiencing chronic homelessness to get off the streets. True miracles are occurring. Some of that work is to be a gap in service for those who have qualified for housing but may not be able to move in for a few weeks. Most recently we helped a mom and dad with a new baby who have successfully worked towards meeting everything they needed to do in order to get housing but would have to wait for a week to get into their apartment. CAM was able to pay for temporary shelter in a hotel by working with their case worker to ensure they were on the right track and this was the best solution. We were also able to help a veteran gain housing who had signed up for housing but had lost contact with his caseworker. CAM reconnected him and he came by to thank us for helping him to get off the street. Right now, CAM is working with many service providers to help individuals with many issues find a solution to shelter and housing. Our ability to say yes immediately makes us a vital resource in this complicated process.



**Valerie and our veteran friend who came by to thank us for helping him get into housing!**



Neville is a sweet client that CAM has had the opportunity to serve; he lives on the streets of San Antonio and has for many years. Our Director of homeless services, Valerie Sala, has been working with Neville even prior to her work at CAM (for 6 years). Like many of the unsheltered street homeless we serve at CAM, their mental health issues and stories are complicated. Like Neville, we work to help clients get into shelters, housing, and even return to family if we can find them. This particular story is incredible because Neville's family is in Zimbabwe and Valerie was able to find them. CAM will be working with a variety of community leaders, organizations, the government, and a medical team to reunite them. Click on the QR code to read this incredible story and learn how we work to help folks living on the streets and meet Neville!



## BACK TO SCHOOL 2021

That's a wrap! Our annual Back-to-School program was a total success this year thanks to all of our amazing donors and volunteers! CAM was able to help 425 kiddos with brand new backpacks, school supplies, uniforms, and socks. We were able to pass out all of their goodies in a safe and COVID-friendly way. This has taken the burden off so many parents and guardians. We want to thank everyone who donated and volunteered, you all are angels! We wish all the kiddos a blessed new school year!



\*\*\*The **CAM 2021 Gala and Queso Meltdown** are cancelled out of the utmost safety concerns.\*\*\*

If you had planned to buy a table or sponsor either event, please consider making that same donation with the attached envelope.



# cam

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FOLLOW US ON



WWW.CAM-SA.ORG

**CAM DOWNTOWN**  
110 McCullough  
210.223.4099

**CAM NORTHWEST**  
5084 DeZavala  
210.697.5771

## CEO's CORNER

Proximate is something that CAM shares as one of its purposes- to be proximate with those we serve, to get to know them, to walk in their shoes, and provide a space for them to come for unconditional love and a safe place for us to get close and serve. It is one of the most powerful components of our ministry. COVID has made this an even more powerful component as we have become deeply engaged with many of the vulnerable folks we are needed to serve. We have learned that being here and building trust is vital for future success. The miracle of this became apparent this summer when I happened to be on a friend's Facebook page who lives in Dallas. I was on it to wish him a Happy Birthday and for some reason, I was drawn to a post he had shared two months prior. It was the face



**Dawn White-Fosdick**



**"Jason" comes to CAM daily**

of a young man and the father on the post shared that he had not seen his adult son in 3 years and that he never shared such personal things on Facebook but he thought maybe someone would recognize his son Jason. For some reason I read it and copied the picture. At the end of the post he shared that his son was last seen in 2018 in San Antonio. I wondered could this be one of our clients? I sent his picture to a staff person, actually two staff and immediately they both said, "yes, that's Jason, he comes to CAM daily and does not speak to us but we know him". We have been able to reconnect him with his family. And while he does suffer from mental health issues, I could share with his father that he is well cared for. He takes showers at CAM, he gets clothes, checks his mail, and is there daily for food. I am struck by the fact that this does not seem like just an accident. We are proximate to those we serve, we are paying attention and know them even if they can't speak with us. I can't help but believe this was a God whisper and perhaps I did recognize his picture without knowing why. We are working with Jason now and I don't know what the rest of the story will be but I do know God has a plan and Jason's earthly dad has experienced the miracle of finding his boy all because we are proximate.

## 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 Sarah Kory at [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.



**STAY UPDATED!**

## HOW CAN YOU HELP

CAM needs help 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, Emily 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!*

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.