HOMELESS SERVICES

This year CAM started to add specific services to the unsheltered street homeless as an effort to address not only their immediate needs but ways we can strategically work on helping them to get off the streets.

30,000 sack lunches served 6 days a week every morning
5,085 showers to include new socks and underwear
403 people served daily to the homeless system to track and ensure they can become eligible for housing, shelter, or other special programs
100 clients provided financial assistance to pay for the following: transportation back home to family or their city of origin, hotel stay related to upcoming housing, emergency hotel stay due to physical crisis, items for their new home when housing became available, specialized items such as work boots, cell phones, clothing, or shoes.

CAM’S MISSION

To share the love of Christ by providing immediate assistance and encouragement to people in crisis.

CAM’S VALUE

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To provide immediate assistance and encouragement to people in crisis.

CAM’S PURPOSE

To be a place that provides us with a means to share God’s love by being proximate with those who need it. To walk in their shoes, to hold their hand, to experience their need. We can only make a difference by knowing the people who need help.

CAM’S MISSION

To share the love of Christ by providing immediate assistance and encouragement to people in crisis.

CAM’S VALUES

• CAM provides daily services to the hardest to serve homeless by creating a space for entry that is free from barriers and demands. We then build trust, and a means for the homeless client to begin working out of their situation through incentives and resources. All services, and requirements to be served, are intentional and are meant to lead to self-sufficiency.
• Mercy to those who may never be able to help themselves due to mental and physical illness. Some simply need help with food and clothing.
• CAM has served over 1 million citizens in the past 46 years since opening in 1977.

OUTCOMES

• CAM brings those who have, to those who need and can organize and disseminate this excess of clothing, food, and dollars adding up to millions of dollars worth of “in-kind” resources into the community annually.
• People are helped before having to turn to government support; saving the community important resources and dollars.
• People’s needs are met immediately with more than 50,000 served annually who may avoid crisis or, in the short term, are helped until they can gain access to programs and solutions.

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INTRODUCTION/OVERVIEW

When people fall into crisis due to financial difficulties or homelessness, there’s a safety net to catch them: Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM). CAM is a non-profit organization that serves as an “emergency room of social services.” No appointment is required; we serve anyone in need, regardless of who they are or where they live, including people who are homeless, low-income families, the elderly, single parents, and children. Many people turn to CAM when they have nowhere else to go. For the working poor, a few missed days of work due to injury or illness can make a big difference in being able to pay rent or buy food. For homeless people who don’t know where their next meal will come from, CAM is a dependable, compassionate source of food and other basic necessities, such as restrooms, showers, and clothing.

As part of our mission to provide immediate assistance and encouragement to people in crisis, CAM addresses problems that require immediate assistance and encouragement to people in crisis. CAM provides immediate response to aid homeless clients in winter storms.

SNOWVID

CAM provides immediate response to aid homeless clients in winter storms.

CAM’s care for the homeless became critical to survive for those living on the streets in Feb. 2021, when an historic winter storm blanketed San Antonio in snow, causing freezing temperatures and widespread power outages. CAM staff took a lead in coordinating community efforts and joined other nonprofits in working around-the-clock to provide the homeless with shelter, food and water clothing and warming items.

Efforts focused on rescuing unsheltered street homeless, the population of individuals who typically are not able to access shelters due to mental or physical illness. Before the storm hit, CAM staff passed out blankets and hot meals, transportation to medical appointments, new clothes and socks three days a week, clothing, and more.

The team helped the unsheltered street homeless population during the storm despite the ongoing threat of COVID-19 in the community (earning this event the nickname “Snowvid”). While staff were ready for this cold-weather crisis, we learned a lot from this difficult experience and as a result, are better prepared as a community in the future.

During a similar freezing spell in February 2022, lessons and leadership learned during last winter’s storm made rescue efforts by CAM, city staff and other nonprofits much more effective, saving many more from dangerous temperatures.

CAM LIGHTS THE WAY ALONG MCCULLOUGH AVENUE

CAM’s location on the corner of Hwy 281 and McCullough Avenue places it in an area of rapid growth and development, with the popular Pearl District, the new Barrio Artesano, the Storyteller Plaza at Pearl Stable and the Pearl Greenway between IH-35 and Hwy. 281, also known as the Light District.

CAM leadership recognized the importance of helping people whose financial difficulties create their crisis. Being just outside the unsheltered street homeless. These are the most difficult cases of homelessness, where individuals who struggle to take advantage of traditional shelters and other homeless services CAM provided in the past as a week, including food, water, portapotties, hand washing stations, showers and hygiene kits with new underwear and socks three days a week, clothing, and more.

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THE BUDGET: CAM managed a budget totaling $2,626,000 (Cash and “In-Kind”).

• Other Donations (individuals, stocks, wills, and family foundations) $177,000 • Bequests $317,000 • Grants $300,000 • United Way $110,000 • Fundraisers/BRG GIVE $31,000* • Income/rental of parking lot: $14,000

* CAM didn’t host their traditional gala or other fundraising event due to COVID and our commitment to the work of serving during the critical time.

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