



# 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 2022

## DOESN'T ALWAYS GO AS PLANNED



At CAM's downtown location there are quite a few people that come to the property experiencing homelessness. We have a little chapel and open it up each morning for anyone who wants to attend and a different pastor or leader from various churches hosts a morning Bible Study and prayer. The number of attendees varies and we know that this is church for many of those we serve. Sometimes they are linked to a particular day and pastor they like, others come every day, and others periodically. Our Monday pastor, from First Presbyterian Church, Mitchell Moore, shared that he showed up one Monday with a prepared lesson and eager to serve. When he arrived, there was only one woman in the Chapel. When he walked in she stood up and began asking him questions and they stood in the middle of the room in conversation. He quickly learned she wasn't interested in the lesson he had planned and had her own spiritual needs and agenda. He also felt a little disappointed that there weren't any others there and that he wasn't going to be able to use his lesson.

We all get it, we work hard to do great work and it doesn't go as planned. He also shared that as they stood there in conversation, she asking spiritual questions and he answering her, a few others started to come into the chapel; it was getting late and many of them were there to sign up for the showers that day (the chapel is the shower waiting room too). They weren't even there for Bible Study. Soon he realized that a little circle had formed around him and the woman and that now others were benefitting from the lesson the woman needed and he was meant to provide. This is so much the case of the ministry at CAM. We open the doors, prepare, and God makes a way for us to meet the real need. It's just **What Love Does**.

## HOUSELESS BIRTHDAY PARTY

CAM hosted the 1st annual Houseless Birthday Party at our downtown campus! It was nothing short of successful! The goal of this event was to celebrate the lives of our homeless friends; to show them that faith in humanity does exist and we're here to honor them and their life. The love of God was surely at this event. We want to thank everyone who donated their time, efforts, resources, all the things! You made their birthday celebration one to remember!



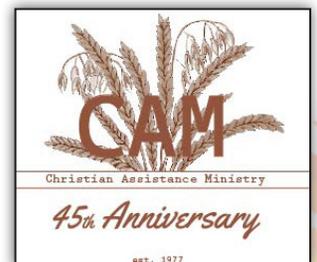
## A TIME OF THANKS

In October and November, CAM promotes a time for people to consider hosting a food drive for our lower income families. Often our families won't be able to have a traditional Thanksgiving meal and are simply hungry for food in general. Please consider hosting a Thanksgiving Food Drive for CAM, and if you do, please let us know when you might bring it to CAM by calling our office at (210) 223-4099 or email Sarah Sutton at skory@cam-sa.org. For a list of food items we collect during this holiday food drive, please visit our website at cam-sa.org.



## HAPPY 45TH TO CAM!

During the month of October, CAM is celebrating it's 45th anniversary. First Presbyterian church helped lead the way and Grace Lutheran church stepped up to provide the downtown location on their campus that we are still serving on today. CAM was founded back in October 1977 by 9 downtown churches. Fast forward to today, and CAM is now supported by over 100 churches and has completely transformed into an organization doing so much good for this community. CAM is still the emergency room of social services, with a goal of helping people experiencing homelessness and economical disadvantages. CAM continues to provide food, clothing, financial assistance and other critical services to more than 70,000 people every year, serving as a safety net for people affected by poverty and financial issues. CAM is the second largest food pantry in San Antonio, offering food services daily. CAM is unique among nonprofits in that it does not have demographic requirements, making anyone in need eligible to receive its services. We're grateful to receive the support we've received the past 45 years. Those who have invested in CAM have shown us that they believe in our mission and what we do for the city of San Antonio. Here's to 45 more years and counting!





# cam

christian  
assistance  
ministry

FOLLOW US ON



WWW.CAM-SA.ORG

**CAM DOWNTOWN**  
110 McCullough  
210.223.4099

ON PROPERTY OF  
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**CAM NORTHWEST**  
5084 DeZavala  
210.697.5771

ON UNIV. UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH CAMPUS

## CEO's CORNER

CAM didn't host a fundraising event this year because of the increased need in our community, the worry of COVID still lingering at the beginning of the year, and our commitment to staying focused on dedicating all of our time on our mission and service. Our hope and belief was that we could raise dollars in less time consuming ways through grants, individual donations, and our "Un-Gala". I won't lie; it's been tough. We couldn't have imagined the increased and growing need of those experiencing homelessness, the cost of gas, the cost of groceries, and all of the ways this impacts our ability to serve and the individual lives of vulnerable people already experiencing great need. We have seen God's work in the ministry and His provision for CAM too. As we end this year in our last quarter we want to ask a favor of you. We hope that you will consider a gift that is meaningful to you. This may include making a monthly commitment, a year end gift, or a step up from what you usually give. We hope that you will also help us by sharing our mission via an email with a forward from our website, following us on Social Media and inviting people you know to follow us too by sharing our posts. We hope you will let your friends, co-workers, and church friends know about CAM and our efforts to meet the needs of people struggling with physical illness, poverty, homelessness, loss of job, mental illness and so much more. We have seen incredible growth for CAM and our ability to do more and do better for those we serve since 2020 despite so many obstacles. We hope you will share our message and continue to join us because, it's just **What Love Does!**



Dawn White-Fosdick

## A COMMON LANGUAGE



CAM does many things to help people in crisis but much of our initial purpose is to simply be there for people. Our presence allows us to walk in their shoes, understand their needs, and stand next to them in a time of crisis. While providing financial assistance, clothes, or food is vital; sometimes it's a connection that is as equally important. Our Northwest location, on the property of

University United Methodist Church, sees many working poor families. This location is also close by many migrants who have been given safe haven in San Antonio because they have been displaced from war torn countries such as Syria. One day our director, Teresa Martin, observed a little boy from a middle eastern country who couldn't speak English, getting frustrated in the waiting room. He had a hand held video game but couldn't get it to work and he was so upset. Another little boy was in the waiting room, this little boy was from the United States and only spoke English but he could speak the language of frustration and video games. He slowly moved closer to the other little boy and reached out his hand to help him. He fixed the video game and they sat there together playing it and communicating in the language of video games and play. It was a beautiful exchange and hopefully imprinted on the boys the power of caring and commonality. It's just **What Love Does.**

## 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 Manager, Mary to learn about a variety of weekly or one time volunteer opportunities.



[mhenderson@cam-sa.org](mailto:mhenderson@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!*

TEXT 'CAMNEWS'  
TO (833) 918-2639

STAY  
UP TO  
DATE!!

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.