



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

SPRING 2022

BEING THERE

CAM, acting as an "Emergency Room" of social services doesn't allow us the opportunity, in many cases, to know the rest of the story or even the clients whole story. We are here to say yes when someone needs help immediately and then we guide them to a long term solution or resource. We often don't see them again. Sometimes the individual reaches out to us and sometimes it's an advocate (a neighbor, family member or a church). Most recently a church called us after calling several other places. They had an individual who was homeless that they had a relationship with who was in the hospital and had a terminal illness. The hospital was getting ready to release him to the streets to face dying alone, without medical care, and no way to fend for himself. Shelters could not take him because he couldn't care for himself. This is a flaw in our system. CAM took the call and said yes we will help. We began advocating for him, visited in the hospital, begged the hospital administration for more time and with the help of the church and our work, we were able to get James into an incredible nonprofit called Abode that provides a home and care for people who are dying and have no one. James was loved on by that church for 10 years, he did odd jobs and tried to contribute by giving back. He told the minister that he wonders if things would have been better for him if he had the same kind of loving family the church provided all along. The short answer is likely yes. James was buried a few weeks ago, in a casket made by an individual at the church. He spent his last month being loved on, in a warm bed and receiving loving end of life care. CAM was able to help advocate for him, help the church find this place, donate dollars to support his care at the nonprofit and we were there to celebrate his life at the funeral. At his funeral the Priest said it was important for us to be available. It struck me that this is what CAM does best...we are available.



CAM SERVICES 2022

RESIDENTIAL CLIENTS

- **47,000** (39,000 with sack lunches) and 8,292 with groceries
- **14,000** clothing: 9,000 for two outfits and 5,000 who receive new underwear and socks when they take a shower on our campus
- **6,000** served through information and referral
- **5,987** received a total of \$550,000* worth of financial help for rent, utilities, ID recovery, prescriptions, bus tickets/passes for work or medical appointments, or specialized homeless help
- **1,941** people picked up their mail at CAM
- **1,640** children provided gifts for Christmas
- **1,255** accessed spiritual support through Bibles, morning chapel, or prayer request
- **435** children provided their specific school supply needs (backpack, uniform, underwear, socks, and shoe voucher)

UNSHELTERED STREET HOMELESS CLIENTS

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

- **39,000** sack lunches total serving 6 days a week
- **5085** showers to include new socks and underwear
- **403** clients newly data-based into the homeless system in order to track and ensure they can become eligible for housing, shelter or other special programs
- **100** clients were assisted to get off the streets and provided the following items: transportation back home to family or city of origin, hotel stay related to upcoming housing, emergency hotel stay due to physical crisis, items for new homes when housing became available, specialized items such as work boots, cell phones, clothing or shoes





cam

christian
assistance
ministry

FOLLOW US ON



WWW.CAM-SA.ORG

CAM DOWNTOWN
110 McCullough
210.223.4099

CAM NORTHWEST
5084 DeZavala
210.697.5771

CEO's CORNER

I keep finding myself in disbelief for what we have all experienced these past two years. I am sure, like you, I can't completely trust that it's over and that we can go back to normal. Maybe that's part of the lesson, we can't go back but we can go forward. In many ways we have all been changed since this Pandemic began in the Spring of 2020. CAM has seen some change for the better and experienced the burden of serving when many could not. We did experience the joy of support, help from others, and making a difference in the lives of others. It is in the act of giving that one can often heal, when we are experiencing our own worries and problems. What I would most like to share with you is that the miracle of CAM was the solid foundation; the 45 years of doing this work that allowed us to stay open. Our experience being the "Emergency Room" of social services allowed us to keep our basic and most needed ways to serve going. The team that conducts interviews, makes referrals to other agencies, writes checks for Utilities or Prescriptions, provides food and clothing never stopped; even when they had to start conducting services outside. We have taken on a new role with the unsheltered street homeless that I am not sure would have ever occurred had the Pandemic not have happened. We are grateful to have this opportunity to serve more and serve better. We were also blessed to serve and work with others doing this type of work and CAM's model of helping immediately was an important part of God's plan 45 years ago. CAM is an important part of the landscape of service in San Antonio. We are humbled to be able to continue this work.



Dawn White-Fosdick

HOW CAN YOU HELP

CAM needs help on a weekly basis, so check out our website (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.



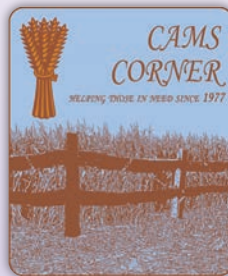
mhenderson@cam-sa.org

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!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT CAM: AUTOMATIC MONTHLY GIVING



Sometimes it can feel impossible; especially when we read reports about 300,000 San Antonio citizens living at or below the poverty level. We don't have to be independently wealthy, a CEO or in retirement to do so. Each gift of \$10, \$20 or \$50 given monthly can add up. When you give to CAM you stand in our corner, like the uncut wheat of a harvest left to remind those in need that they have been provided for by God through our obedience. In other words when you join CAM's corner, you have our back and you have the backs of people like John who is starting over and getting back to work or Kelly working hard to feed her children while working and going to school. **We hope you will join us this year by making an ongoing monthly gift.**



TEXT
'CAMNEWS'
TO
(833) 918-2639

Stay Updated!!

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.