



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 2023

ONE LIFE AT A TIME

Every Tuesday morning, CAM's homeless Director and Coordinator attend the SAPD bike patrol roll call. This is part of our intentional effort to link what we do with community partners like the SAPD. Out of this organic work, we formed a pilot program called *"One Life at a Time"* to work with the SAPD on individuals newly facing homelessness, some kind of an emergency or who were chronically homeless and causing a lot of trouble for our community. Just by naming it, working intentionally to communicate with the SAPD, the DA's office and our neighbors, we have been able to make a difference as we say, *"One Life at a Time"*. Some of these are very chronic clients that we have been able to get off the streets, help to get mental health care, help them get reunited with family, and ultimately off the streets. Sometimes these are people who are simply lost to family and because folks know we are doing this, we get the opportunity to rescue people.



Valerie, CAM & Goose, Corazon, were able to bring the young woman home.

Most recently a mom posted on Facebook a search for her daughter who she knew was in San Antonio based on some phone calls (her daughter was developmentally delayed and mentally ill). Her daughter had been missing from Aransas Pass since October (it was February now). People started sharing this post with CAM staff because they knew we might be able to find her. Valerie Salas and Heather Clemons who head up this work, saw it and headed out to find her. Because we use a shared data base to track the unsheltered street homeless, we looked there first and she was not in the system.



Since they already had relationships with the police, they began talking with them, and discovered there had been a sighting. Valerie contacted the mom and was able to get a phone number that the young woman had used to contact her mother asking for money and help but each time her mother sent money for a bus the girl never returned. After several calls to this number, that were answered by a male, Valerie asked where they were; so she could bring money. It worked and with the help of the SAPD and the CAM team, they were able to rescue this woman who was being trafficked and desperately needed help. She was able to be returned home with the help of a community partner from Corazon. This is just one of the many *"One Life at a Time"* efforts that CAM is currently participating in and most are on our campus. Often just like all of our work, we are a first responder and then connect people to long term supports.

CAM SERVICES 2022

- 72,000 were provided food through groceries or daily meals
- 20,000 were provided clothing
- 6,000 individuals received financial assistance (Rx, utilities, ID's, birth certificates, etc.)
- 325 Back Packs/Back-to-School "Adopt a Child" program
- 1,500 children received gifts from the Emergency Christmas Store
- 267 Received haircuts for employment
- 300 homeless were helped off the streets



**SCAN TO REVIEW
THE ANNUAL
REPORT FOR 2023**

ANNUAL REPORT

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

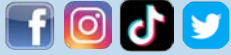
Help us get necessary items into the hands of those that need it most in an efficient manner!



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

WHO CAM HELPS: AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE

Patricia came to CAM's NW location seeking clothes and shoes for her graduation from San Antonio College. When her grandmother passed away at age 8 she was put into the foster care system but she aged out in 2020. Since then, with no family, she has been staying with various friends, something we call "couch surfing". She explained that she came to CAM regularly for clothing and hygiene items and every fall for a backpack. She works part-time around her course schedule. She always encourages those she stays with to come to CAM for food. "That's one way I can pay back, helping other people find resources." The clothing pantry had a perfect pair of heels for graduation, but no dress pants, so we sent her to Dress for Success. This is at the heart of CAM, to do what we can to help, and then link clients to other community support. Patricia hopes to work full-time, get her own apartment, and, eventually complete a BS in Social Work; so she can pay it forward. Congratulations to Patricia for achieving her associate's degree and so much more!



BS in Social Work

CEO'S CORNER

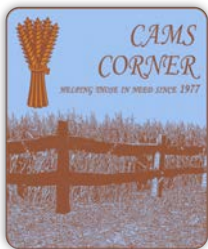
As we start 2023, it is hard to believe what our country, world, and CAM has been through for the past 3 years. I can't believe that I can also say, I have been here for the past 13 years. CAM is and has been right where it needs to be. Our two locations meet the needs of people from all over our city, facing unique issues that require someone to look at each person as an individual. CAM also takes a leading role in community crisis from the pandemic, to hurricanes in areas near us, to things like the freeze in 2021. Our preparation and willingness to operate from an immediate support lets us not only support those in need but also the community systems.

As a result, because there is such great need today, we increased our ability to regularly provide food and clothing from once every quarter, then to every other month, and now to every 30 days. We have increased the financial assistance available to help people avoid disconnect, and we have created new services for our unsheltered street homeless. CAM works hard to keep people in their homes while also working hard to help people to get into homes. I don't know what 2023 has in store for us but I hope you will join me in prayer, time, talent, and treasure as we continue to make a difference in the lives of people in our community.



Dawn White-Fosdick

MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT CAM: AUTOMATIC MONTHLY GIVING OR LEGACY GIFT



Sometimes it can feel impossible to make a difference; 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 Chris who is starting over and getting back to work or Katie working hard to feed her children while working and going to school. Consider leaving a legacy gift by placing CAM in your will or estate plan. For

questions about how to do this, please contact CAM's Director of Development, Sarah Sutton, at skory@cam-sa.org.

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 70,000 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.