



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

SUMMER 2023

A GLIMMER OF HOPE

Our Director of Client Services, Diane, recently shared a heart-wrenching story with us about a client she had seen at CAM. As told by Diane: "So many clients, so many stories. Sometimes we're asked to share client stories, and most of the time we live them, we process them in the moment and then they are put away in the back of our minds; so we can become more available for our next client.

I met with a 69 year old woman who came in desperate for CPS Energy assistance. She said she had severe medical issues and couldn't be without electricity. She mentioned she sleeps with a c-pap due to her sleep apnea, and she expressed, if she no longer has electricity, she could easily die in her sleep. She mentioned she had applied with Bexar County for assistance, but had not heard anything from them. She asked her adult daughters for help but they said no and that she'd have to figure it out on her own. The anxiety and desperation intensified.

She approached someone she knew, someone she thought she could trust, who might give her a loan for her bill. He agreed to give her \$50.00 in exchange for terribly explicit acts. Because she was so desperate and at her wits end, she agreed. Afterward, he only gave her \$25.00; when she insisted they agreed on \$50.00, he became enraged and punched her in the face, this explained the black eye when she came in to see us. As always, even though people come in with these kinds of stories or worse, I checked to see if she was indeed in collection. We have such a limited amount of money, but we still had \$100.00 left, which I was hoping to use for this woman. When I checked her CPS account, I noticed that Bexar County had paid over \$1,000.00 toward her bill two days ago. She currently had a credit with CPS. When I showed her the balance on her account, she was in tears; tears of joy! She was so excited and relieved. I asked her if we could provide her with food and clothing in the meantime. She just kept weeping and said the gift she just received was more than she could process and would come back if she needed it another day.

I wish I had a picture of the change in her face and body when she left; she had a little box of bread in her hands beaming from ear to ear. In the grand scheme of things, CAM didn't do very much, but to her it was the world. CAM is able to help in many ways, sometimes with food, other times with financial assistance, so many times it's listening and problem solving with people!"



2ND ANNUAL HOUSELESS BIRTHDAY PARTY



CAM is hosting the 2nd Annual Houseless Birthday Celebration! This event is meant to honor the lives of people that may not always be seen. Our goal is to celebrate their birth just like anyone's birthday would be celebrated. This event provides a time to celebrate our unsheltered family while raising awareness and breaking negative stigmas for those simply surviving on the streets. We want to create a time and space to bless our houseless population. That said, save the date and join us on **September 23rd** from **10:00am to 1:00pm** at CAM's downtown campus for all of the fun and festivities! We'll have gifts, food, games, door prizes and so much more. We can certainly use your help in preparation for the big day; contact Valerie Salas at valerie@cam-sa.org if you're interested in getting involved or helping with this event. We'll need help in all areas – set up, food donations, etc.





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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

Sometimes CAM is called by people in community because they are in a crisis and the situation is so dire that we get a little more involved. Most recently there was a high profile case in the news and an individual's father had died in a tragic way. The police and the family reached out to CAM because the family was so traumatized but most importantly their adult son had some mental health and substance abuse issues. His deceased father had been a primary caregiver for him.

Now the mother was at a loss and the adult son was getting worse and worse. A lot of the work we do is to educate and advocate; helping the family navigate the mental health and substance abuse system. Also helping the individual to agree to take advantage of this help. That in itself is huge and we were able to get the adult son mental health care.



Dawn White-Fosdick

That's not the end of the story, we saw God's hand in this work as we continued our advocacy. One of our staff members, Valerie, needed to gain access to the patient to follow up on his care. She shared that she couldn't seem to get anyone to transfer her to the client at this hospital or give her any update and she was worried he would check himself out. She was so frustrated, she shared that she left the hospital and sat in her car for a moment and surrendered it all to God. Not 5 minutes later she received a call from a nurse/social worker who shared that she was new at this exact hospital and wanted to learn a little more about CAM. She had no idea that Valerie had been trying to get help from that hospital and was able to make the connection. Now if that is not a God thing, we don't know what is!

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!

LEAVE A LEGACY

CAM has what's called a **Planned Giving Program** — sometimes called gift planning, deferred giving, or legacy giving, which helps our donors make plans to leave money or assets to CAM at a future date, both during their lifetimes and after death. There are many forms of planned giving, but the most common are bequests, charitable gift annuities, and charitable remainder trusts. Many of our supporters who have been with CAM from the start have already started planning their giving for when they pass on.



We know, this may sound incredibly grim, but quite the contrary. Imagine leaving a legacy behind even after you've passed on that continues to help those in need in the San Antonio community? It's quite powerful and incredibly needed. Many donors from our member churches have left legacy gifts that help CAM continue operating on a day-to-day basis, and that's been the biggest blessing for us. If you're interested in planned giving, please contact Dawn at dwhite@cam-sa.org.



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 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.