



# 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 2023

## I.D. RECOVERY: PROVIDING HOPE

CAM's ID recovery program and the volunteers who help us do this work, truly demonstrate the incredible processes and services CAM has developed over the years in order to help people move forward in life. As you may or may not imagine, getting an ID requires many documents that people we serve may no longer have nor ever had. Due to things like domestic violence and escaping a home, they may leave their documents behind. Their family may have had to move many times and they lost original birth certificates or social security cards. They may have lost everything when they became homeless. It may not have been updated or lost while they were incarcerated.

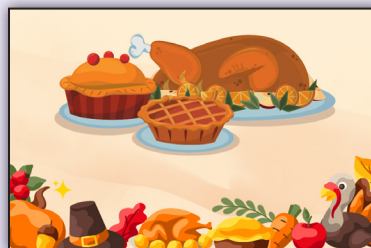
The thing that makes it all so hard, is that you can't get an original birth certificate without some proof of ID, and you can't get a Social Security Card without a birth certificate. Ironically enough, you need both of those documents to get a picture ID. As you can see, it's not just the financial assistance that is hard but the process in and of itself that's difficult. This is how CAM helps with all of the above. People need this ID to get a job, obtain housing, or even to enter a shelter if they are homeless. It is vital and very stressful for individuals who may have lost everything, have little money, and may have no transportation.

Most recently a seasoned volunteer who has truly learned the processes for individuals to gain an ID was meeting with a client. When the client walked in, she was a little intimidated. He had been recently released from prison, was a very big man, and had many tattoos. He explained that his probation officer and even a family member had tried to help him get his ID, but they were not successful. He was worried, upset, and frustrated; he needed it to work, he needed someone to hear him and help him. Our sweet volunteer, Darcy, was able to use the tools she now has after working with the system for years at CAM, and was able to get his ID renewed online and paid for by CAM. As she sat with him finalizing the details, he began to weep. She was so moved that this big, strong man was weeping for joy. This meant he could begin life and take care of himself. Darcy is currently training other volunteers to do this work; so that we can always have this vital service available to those we serve!



## SA BUSINESS JOURNAL

CAM is incredibly elated and honored to announce that we've been selected by the San Antonio Business Journal as a 2023 Nonprofit & Corporate Philanthropy Award honoree! This recognition means so much to us as we strive to make a difference in the lives of those struggling in this community. We want to extend our sincerest gratitude to the San Antonio Business Journal and Leslie Palmer Consulting for nominating us - thank you for seeing all of our hard work. Stay tuned for more information and photos as the luncheon for this award will be held on November 16th!



## SHARE YOUR HARVEST

In October and November, CAM promotes a time for people to consider hosting a food drive for our lower income families as part of our Share Your Harvest Thanksgiving Food Drive. Often times, the families we serve aren't able to have a traditional

Thanksgiving meal, and are simply hungry for food in general. Please consider hosting a food drive for CAM collecting Thanksgiving-type foods. If you plan on participating in this drive, please let us know when you will be able to bring your food donations to CAM by calling our office at (210) 223-4099 or email Sarah Sutton at [skory@cam-sa.org](mailto: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](http://cam-sa.org).

**SAN ANTONIO  
BUSINESS JOURNAL**



**cam**  
christian  
assistance  
ministry

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WWW.CAM-SA.ORG

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110 McCullough  
210.223.4099

ON PROPERTY OF  
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

**CAM NORTHWEST**  
5084 DeZavala  
210.697.5771

ON UNIV. UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH CAMPUS

## BIG GIVE 2023

The Big Give SA 2023 is over and we'd like to sincerely thank everyone who participated! You helped CAM raise \$23,445 this year for those in need in San Antonio. We did much better than last year, woohoo! This funding will go towards providing those in need with food, clothing, financial assistance with utilities, birth certificates, IDs and so much more. Thank you to our amazing CAM supporters, advocates, CAM champions, volunteers, friends of CAM and so many more. You all helped CAM have another successful year during the Big Give SA!



## CHRISTMAS STORE

Join us in sharing the joy of the season and making a difference in the lives of San Antonio families by donating new toys or hosting a toy drive at your home, work, or church. We need gifts for all ages (0-18 years) – infants to teenagers, boys & girls. All toy donations need to be new. Contact Nora Oyler at 210-223-4099 or noyler@cam-sa.org to learn more.



## 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!*

## CEO'S CORNER

As we are finally seeing a change in the weather with just a little relief from this heat, I am reminded of how God shows us change is possible through nature and the different seasons. Possibility abounds and it lifts our spirits. I can certainly say that 2023 has been a year to remember, to say the least. CAM has seen our work in community grow and our ability to address issues impacting some of our most vulnerable clients experiencing homelessness be connected to an overall homeless response system. We are seeing results and are part of an effort to provide resources and housing to people. We have seen support from community, churches and foundations that have encouraged our faith to step out and say yes to new things that have great impact! **We are grateful for this.**

Most recently, CAM's downtown location experienced a catastrophe when our warehouse caught on fire and the big doors that cover practically one side of the warehouse burned causing an enormous amount of smoke damage and the loss of these doors. The aftermath of that did feel defeating for just a moment when we were faced with clean up, and the realization that most of our stored items (clothing, coats, diapers etc.) would have to be taken out and destroyed due to the smoke damage. But as quickly as we were heartbroken, God showed us his ever faithfulness through community love and support from churches, individuals, foundations, and our city of San Antonio. Everyone rallied around us to help with the cleanup, set up of a new way to do business while we wait to get things permanently repaired and can move back in, and the provision of new supplies. Likely our way of doing business including our CAM Christmas store which we hold out of our warehouse may look a little different but we never stopped serving and we plan to maintain our same level of services through out the rest of this year. We do this with the confidence that the Lord will provide. I hope you will continue this journey with us and be on the look out for how you can help and see the miracles that occur daily at CAM.



**Dawn White-Fosdick**

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.