

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

CHRISTIAN ASSISTANCE MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024

"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

OUR NEIGHBOR'S FEET

Most recently one of our volunteers shared a touching story of interviewing a woman in a wheelchair who needed clothing and shoes. Because she was so debilitated, she could not go downstairs and shop for herself; so our volunteer shared that she went downstairs and picked out clothing, socks, and shoes. When she came back upstairs, the woman quietly mentioned, that she couldn't put the shoes on (she didn't ask her to put them on but clearly that is what she wanted). At that moment our sweet volunteer looked at the woman's tattered feet with only socks on and found herself kneeling below the woman helping to get her dirty socks off and realized she needed to wash her feet before she could even put on the new socks and shoes. She shared that if someone had asked her if that is something she would ever do for someone, her answer might have been no but in that moment, she could not say no. It was such a touching act of service that she felt honored to be there for the client who humbly received this help. She shared that this reminded her of when Jesus showed us how important our service is when he washed the disciple's feet. She barely wanted to tell us this as she was in no way comparing herself to Jesus but rather felt so touched by this opportunity to love someone in their most vulnerable position that she had to share.



This caused us at CAM to think about acts of service and the metaphor of washing someone's feet that Jesus showed us. We began thinking of how the person who had their feet washed might feel. Sometimes, they might feel embarrassed or they would never ask for this type of help. Sometimes when we offer to help someone "wash their feet" they might say no at first or think it is strange that we are offering to do so. We realized what an act of trust it is to ask, or receive this kind of intimate help and it reminded us of how powerful we all are when we come together to give or receive. It's incredible that Jesus used this as an example of service. Our feet are often the most burdened, they are often sore, hurting, dirty, and they need a lot of attention because they are so important. However, most people aren't going to offer to clean your feet and many people would be too embarrassed to ask you to do so. It reminded us of many "feet" stories we see at CAM. People asking for shoes, socks, toenail clippers, all very specific feet issues and that act of service allows us to serve them in that moment but even metaphorically we are serving and loving the entire person with any request they are seeking from us. We have to be available to help, offer, and create a space of trust. That initial act may allow us to do more or help them get to the next destination for help or open up the idea of hope for someone. Jesus certainly knew what he was doing when he demonstrated this by washing his disciple's feet!



LEGACY GIVING



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



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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



BACK 2 SCHOOL



Every year, CAM organizes, coordinates, and hosts the Back-to-School Program; a donation drive benefiting so many students. Most people aren't aware, but thousands of children start each school year without the proper supplies needed and required by the school districts.

CAM's program allows for individuals, dedicated donors, organizations, corporate companies, etc. to "adopt a child", meaning they retrieve that child's school supply list for the upcoming year and purchase the items on the list, and place everything in a brand new backpack for the child. CAM

staff and volunteers coordinate this effort and work with the donor to ensure the process is as seamless and easy as possible for the donor. For more information email Sarah, skory@cam-sa.org.



CEO'S CORNER - I GET TO KNOW

Sometimes, I wish I didn't know all that is happening to people in our world. The things we hear at CAM, experience with those we serve, and see can be overwhelming, heartbreaking, and even frustrating. I complain to myself, why do I have to know!? It's tough but just as I let those thoughts creep in, I see, experience, and hear things that many others don't get to know about. Daily, along with my team, I hear and see incredible miracles. I am moved to tears as I see God working in so many lives or when he lets us know how someone is doing. We get to bring joy to family members looking for loved ones and often we get to rescue those that no one may even see are in trouble. It is amazing, life changing, heart filling and miraculous. Then I am reminded. **I GET TO KNOW!**

THINGS I GET TO KNOW

- We were able to rescue a young woman with mental health issues who had been taken in a trafficking situation and bring her back to her family
- We were able to see someone living on the streets, in a box, completely lost with hallucinations and delusions for more than 10 years transformed with love, medication, and support who now has a home and was able to walk down the aisle as a ring bearer for the individual who helped to rescue him
- We were able to see addiction, recovery, and then housing for many of those we serve
- We got to know a client who spent years in prison, 15 years on probation, got off of probation, graduated with a master's, and now serving those like herself
- Daily we see loving people just trying to survive and rise to the occasion despite all of their hardships. We get to love them

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.

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 Director of Operations and Volunteers, 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!



Dawn White-Fosdick