

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

CHRISTIAN ASSISTANCE MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

FALL 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

HOPE FOR A SWEET FRIEND



David is a client that we have been working with for the last 3 year, specifically one of our homeless response team members, Heather. This is David's story from Heather's POV. "This client started out as a missing person and after some time the client and I were able to discuss this and get in contact with his family even though he had no intention of ever going back. This client has declined rapidly due to the wear and tear of the streets, but has maintained a close relationship with me and other members of my team. The relationship with David's sister and I has grown as well, helping to support each other with information and encouragement as we try to meet him where he's at, but also try to help in whatever ways we can.

Last year, David fell from a 3 story building and broke his back, with doctors saying he would never walk again. However, after visiting this client in the hospital and leaving the hospital, the next time I would see this client he would be riding up to me on a bike. As usual defeating the odds. In recent days this client has endured another traumatic event. After being severely beaten, parts of his skull removed, and in a coma, he had been once again deemed to never recover or even wake up.

My partner and I went to visit our friend, hoping that inside somewhere he would hear us and be encouraged. Hours after we left, his sister called saying that he had woken up and was able to breathe on his own. In the days to follow, he would ask for his friends (our Homeless Response Team) and cry when we would arrive telling us how much he loves us. He is remembering faces, his favorite songs, and how to swallow real food. Just as recent as Friday, when I went for a visit...he said my name...."Heather, she is my friend". Our connection to these clients is irreplaceable and our team is grateful God uses us as a pathway to strength for our folks. He is recovering well and this tragic incident has brought his family back into his life. He will be moving in with his sister who is a nurse and can care for him. CAM's relationship and communication with his family has meant that this tragedy has turned into a miracle. This young man will no longer be on the streets!"

SHARE YOUR HARVEST

In October and November, CAM promotes a time for people to consider hosting a food drive, packaging up Thanksgiving items and donating food for our lower income families. Often times, the families we serve won't be able to have a traditional Thanksgiving meal and are simply hungry for food in general. Through the generous donation of individuals, churches, and work place offices, the special Thanksgiving items will be a surprise for families that come to CAM seeking food. Please consider hosting a Thanksgiving Food Drive for CAM, and if you do, please let us know when you might bring it to CAM by calling our office at (210) 223-4099 or by emailing Mary Henderson at mhenderson@cam-sa.org. For a list of food items we collect during this holiday food drive, please visit our website at cam-sa.org.



TEXAS HOMELESS NETWORK AWARD

CAM's Homeless Response Team has been awarded the statewide 2024 Texas Homeless Network (THN) Award for Outstanding Community Organization of the Year! For over 25 years, THN has recognized and celebrated organizations making a significant impact in ending homelessness within their communities. This year, THN said that CAM stood out for its remarkable efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic, transforming into the homeless HUB for the unsheltered street homeless in San Antonio. They also went on to say that CAM's innovative "One Life at a Time" approach, in collaboration with SAPD, mental health units, the DA's office, and long-term supportive housing, has been instrumental in serving the most vulnerable and chronically homeless individuals. This work not only supports those in need but also educates and shifts the mindset of San Antonio citizens on how to address homelessness compassionately and systemically. We are incredibly grateful for this amazing honor!





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christian
assistance
ministry

FOLLOW US ON



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GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

CAM NORTHWEST
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210.697.5771

ON UNIV. UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH CAMPUS

CHRISTMAS STORE

Christmas is right around the corner and CAM is already planning and preparing for our Annual Emergency Christmas Store! For those who don't know, we completely transform our warehouse into a Christmas Store with donated decorations and Christmas trees and lights, it's truly incredible. We provide this every year to families in need of assistance during Christmas. Often times the families we see struggling aren't able to make ends meet, let alone buy toys and gifts for their children during Christmas. With the help of donors like you we collect brand new, unwrapped toys and gifts for boys and girls ages 0-18, and in December we allow families to come and 'shop', free of charge of course, for their children. This is an annual program CAM coordinates and we serve thousands of children every year. Join us in sharing the joy of the season by 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. For more information about how to get involved in our annual Emergency Christmas Store program, please contact Sylvia at sgarcia@cam-sa.org today!



A SEASON OF GIVING

As we approach the holiday season, we want to remind everyone that it is a season for giving! CAM does so much for vulnerable populations during the holiday months, on top of our regular, day-to-day services. We provide Thanksgiving food items and we have an annual Emergency Christmas Store where families can 'shop' free of charge to retrieve toys and gifts for their children for Christmas. We need donors and supporters like you to please consider giving a monetary gift to CAM so we can keep these programs running smoothly in order to help those in need and/or a crisis situation. For more information about donating money to CAM during the holiday season, contact Dawn at dwhite@cam-sa.org.



DONATE

CEO's CORNER

As we prepared to host our Gala this year, I typically work on a video to present the event and then use it as a means to share CAM's mission throughout the year. Part of this effort includes finding people who have come to CAM to get help and who may be willing to come in on a special day to share a little about their experience. As you can imagine this is sometimes hard because some individuals may feel embarrassed to share that they had this need. In addition, taking their own time to come on a day to answer questions on video may be very hard on those we serve. Transportation, time away from work, figuring out what to wear and just speaking on camera... It's a lot! What I want to share with you, is that despite all of this, many want to do this. They are so proud to be able to have some way to give back to CAM and share that on video with us. They are proud that they can do something to help us help others.



Dawn White-Fosdick



WATCH VIDEO

This year I had the opportunity to interview a client that has a home but sometimes just needs a little help to pay a bill or groceries to help her get by until her next pay check. I had the opportunity to meet a gentleman who had been incarcerated, served his time, been released, had gotten a job, and now has found a place to live. CAM helped him with his ID and work clothes. I also had a chance to meet a mom with a developmental disability who needed a birth certificate (help paying for it) because she and her son had qualified for subsidized housing and they needed this to move in. She works hard to care for herself and her son despite her disability. There were several others that all had different reasons for needing short term help or ongoing support that CAM was able to be there for. Their generosity in sharing their stories is something I wanted to share with you. Sometimes the overall need can seem overwhelming, as 200,000 people live at or below the poverty level in San Antonio. However, when you take each person's story and the little ways we can help, it can be so hopeful.

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.