

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

CHRISTIAN ASSISTANCE MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2025

"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

EACH ONE COUNTS: JOE'S JOURNEY HOME

Joe is one of our longtime CAM clients. For years, he's battled chronic homelessness, compounded by severe and deteriorating mental health challenges. His story is not uncommon, many of the people we serve live at the edges of society, in the shadows, often forgotten. But at CAM, we don't forget. We see them. We know them by name. And we do whatever we can to protect them, provide for them, and find pathways toward healing and stability.

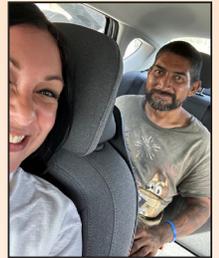
Joe's family loves him deeply, but they've struggled to care for him due to their own limited resources. Still, knowing that someone, CAM, is keeping an eye on him has brought them peace in the midst of helplessness. Earlier this year, something incredible happened. With the launch of our CAMpassion Care Program, focused specifically on the mental health of the chronically homeless, Joe agreed to participate. We were stunned. And then, we were amazed—because he began to show real, marked improvement. It gave us hope. It gave him hope. But then, Joe disappeared.



Because we know those we serve, we noticed. His absence was felt immediately, and we grew deeply concerned. After a month without any sign of him, his family reached out in distress. Together, we began an urgent search: checking hospitals, police stations, and scouring social media.

Around the same time, another client vanished under similar circumstances. When that client eventually returned, we learned something deeply troubling. He told us about an unscrupulous group based in Austin, people who pick up unhoused individuals, take them back to the city, and force them to panhandle. It was horrifying, and it made us fear the worst for Joe.

That's when two of our dedicated staff, Jack and Valerie, said, "We need to go to Austin." They drove there without hesitation, visiting homeless service providers, talking with police, and even encountering the group they believed may have taken Joe. Just when they were about to lose hope, they saw him, curled up in a corner on the street. They rushed over. "Joe!" *(continued on back)*



EMERGENCY 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 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.

SHARE YOUR HARVEST

In October and November, CAM promotes a time for people to consider hosting a food drive, packaging 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 businesses, 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.





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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 PROPERTY OF
UNIVERSITY METHODIST CHURCH

JOE'S JOURNEY HOME: CONTINUED

He looked up at them with tired but gentle eyes and asked, "Are you going to take me home?" They were able to bring him back, reunite him with his family, and get him reconnected to services through CAM. **JOE IS HOME.**

This experience reminded all of us of something Jesus taught, that a good shepherd will leave the ninety-nine to go after the one who is lost. That's the kind of care we strive to embody. At CAM, each one matters. Each name, each life, each story, counts. We thank you for making this work possible. Without your support, stories like Joe's might end differently. But because of you, hope is never out of reach.

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 monetarily donating to CAM during the holiday season, contact Dawn at dwhite@cam-sa.org.

CEO'S CORNER

I want to share a story with you that is difficult to hear—but it powerfully illustrates why our model at CAM matters so much. It's a story that reminds us why our doors are always open, with no appointments and no demographic requirements. It's about being ready—at any moment—to be the hands and feet of Christ.

A young mother came into our office recently, carrying her 5-month-old baby. She came seeking help: formula and food. There may have been other needs, but we hadn't yet completed her intake. As she sat in the waiting room, the baby became increasingly fussy. The mother, visibly overwhelmed, began to unravel emotionally. In a sudden and heartbreaking moment, she struck the baby—so harshly and so publicly that others in the room were shocked and alarmed. What happened next was a testament to the heart and training of the CAM team.

Our staff and volunteers immediately sprang into action. They gently stepped in, ensured the safety of the baby, and contacted emergency services. Police and EMS arrived quickly, and Child Protective Services later intervened to take custody of the child. It was a traumatic and emotional event—for our team, for the clients present, for the mother, and most of all, for the baby. And yet, through it all, I have found myself returning to one thought: **"Thank God our doors were open."** Because we were there—without judgment, without red tape, without delay—we were able to intervene in a moment of urgent need. That baby needed a safe place. That mother, clearly in distress, needed help. We don't know what led her to that moment, but we do know God placed her—and that baby—on our doorstep. **This is why CAM exists.**

We may never know in advance how God will use us. But when we open our doors with grace and hope, we become part of His plan. Each day, we serve clients in vastly different situations—some who look just like us, others who appear to be in crisis. Each one is a child of God, and each one matters. Thank you for your support, your prayers, and your belief in this mission. Because of you, **our doors remain open to all**—just as Christ's arms are open to all.

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



Dawn White-Fosdick