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CAM Press Release

Contact: Jack Burke, jack@soundmarketing.com
417-239-1011 or 417-527-8031

Cash, Food, or Time?

Opportunities to be of service to CAM

Branson, MO...Tough times usually bring out the best of people, particularly in the Ozarks. One of the major local charities that is totally supported by the community, Christian Action Ministries, fights hunger in Taney County with two food pantries and a mobile outreach.

Traditionally the community supports CAM with donations of food, cash, and volunteer time. Food donations come in from a myriad of sources: organizations that conduct food drives, individuals wanting to help their neighbors, theaters offering free admittance in exchange for food, and church groups collecting food on a regular basis. Cash contributions also come from similar sources: churches, individuals, businesses, theaters, and foundation grants. Pantry volunteers are comprised of individuals, as well as group efforts from various churches and organizations.

Board chairman Jack Burke told us that they are often asked whether it is better to donate food, cash, or time. "The first thing we tell them is that we need their prayers, a donation that anyone can make in support of our efforts. We then explain that we appreciate and value whatever they can do, be it donations of food, cash, or time."

Burke went on to point out that financial contributions offer perhaps the most value. "We all know that it will cost about \$3 to purchase a box of cereal to donate to CAM. Yet, if that same \$3 were donated in cash, we could buy at least 16 boxes of cereal at our price of 18 cents for a box of cereal. Aside from necessary food purchases, cash donations also offset the normal cost of operational expenses, such as rent, utilities, gasoline and upkeep for our van, and a small, but necessary, payroll."

CAM is also appreciative of people who volunteer their time and talents. Volunteers normally help maintain the pantry inventory and stocking, and interview clients needing assistance. However, CAM is also looking for people who can help with the computers, website management, design of flyers and brochures, outbound telephone calls to supporters, and much more.

Anyone wishing to donate cash, food, or time, can call CAM's executive director Pat Davis at 334-1157 or visit the CAM website at www.christianactionministries.org.