



Media Contact: Jeanne Albrecht, ISA Board Member
210-392-9047 or jca@satx.rr.com
December 1, 2011

For Immediate Release:

Impact San Antonio Names Recipient of \$100,000 Grant
Local women create an AH-HAH! moment for one local charity

Impact San Antonio Foundation Inc. awarded its \$100,000 annual grant to its top finalist, Christian Assistance Ministry at its 7th annual Grant Award Night on Wednesday, October 26, 2011 at the Radius Center. More than 125 Impact San Antonio members and their guests attended the reception to mingle, hear presentations by the five semifinalists, vote and award the checks that evening.

Impact San Antonio is an all-woman, all volunteer organization, led by a Board of Directors, that recruits as many women as possible who each donate \$1,000 a year, and pools that money to make one annual \$100,000 grant to a worthy San Antonio area non-profit organization after a thorough grant review process. Beginning in the summer, grants are accepted and then reviewed in five categories: culture, education, environment, family, health/wellness. Founded in 2004, Impact San Antonio has now donated more than \$546,000 to area non-profits since 2005.

“For the first time since we were formed, we exceeded the 100-member goal and reached 121 members,” says Jackie Pugh, Board President, Impact San Antonio. “With each member donating \$1,000 each, we could bestow the \$100,000 to one organization, and also give each semi-finalist \$5,250. All the semi-finalists were so very, very good; it was extremely hard to make a final decision.”

The four other semi-finalists vying for the top grant were Green Spaces Alliance of South Texas; The Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas; San Antonio AIDS Foundation; and SAY Sí.

The winner of the \$100,000 grant—Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM)—is a cooperative ministry founded in 1977 by nine downtown San Antonio churches to offer temporary assistance to individuals and families in crisis situations, alleviating the duplication of services by banding together to form one centrally located Christian social service agency. It now receives support from 70 member churches.

“CAM is humbled and honored to be selected; this is a life-changing gift that will ensure that we can continue to serve our clients with dignity, safety and grace,” says Dawn White, Executive Director, Christian Assistance Ministry. “CAM is a grassroots non-profit created to serve people in our community, and is truly made possible by San Antonio citizens coming together to serve their neighbors. Impact SA bestowing this grant on us is just another example of the power of working together to make a difference—a REAL difference!”

With the money from the ISA grant, CAM will address accessibility and repair issues by renovating both upstairs restrooms to ADA compliance and repair plumbing fixtures; create a men’s restroom; and create a family restroom that can only be accessed through the family waiting room and thusly will be visible to CAM staff and volunteers. A much-needed ramp will be built outside the main entrance of the building to allow improved access for physically disabled clients and parents with strollers. Construction on the outdoor ramp was started in November 2011, and the indoor construction is slated for January 2012.

White adds that ISA’s funding for those important repairs to its building will mean long-time sustainability, and CAM won't have to use dollars for continued repairs that can instead now be used to serve people.

More on CAM: Today, CAM is supported by 70 member churches as well as several other supporting churches in the San Antonio area. For many of its clients, Christian Assistance Ministry is a bridge to support from other agencies or government services, providing food and financial aid until another agency can take over assistance. CAM’s services are sustained by an active volunteer force of over 150 individuals from Member Churches, the Board of Directors and the community at large, who run the food and clothing pantries and interview clients on a daily basis.

More on ISA: Past winners of the ISA grants are:

- **2010 -- Daily Bread Ministries** used its \$100,000 grant to buy a refrigerated truck to redistribute more food to the hungry of San Antonio.
- **2009 -- San Antonio Youth Orchestra’s \$100,000** grant supported their new orchestra program for elementary school students on the west side of San Antonio, in partnership with the Good Samaritan Community Center.
- **2008 -- St Jude’s Ranch** (transitional living program) used **\$100,000** to move its young adult program to San Antonio; the funds completely furnished a home, purchased computers and vans for this program.
- **2007 -- Jump Start Performance Company** put its **\$52,000** to good use in its Arts and Education Program to expand the Historias y Cuentas (Stories and Tales) program for two new elementary schools and to develop a curriculum guide for teachers.
- **2006 -- Senior Christian Services (Meals on Wheels)** spent **\$33,000** to purchase a new truck.

- **2005 -- Association of Retarded Citizens (The ARC) of San Antonio** used its **\$25,000** grant to rehab a daycare room for children with disabilities.

For more information on how to join Impact San Antonio or the grant process, please visit www.impactsanantonio.org or call Impact SA President Jacqueline Pugh at 210-602-1350.