

Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM)

Memorial Assistance Ministries' (MAM) Mission Statement: "To serve God as an outreach of the member congregations by providing emergency assistance and other services for the needy." Their purpose is to help families and individuals who find themselves in temporary crisis and in need of assistance to maintain self-sufficiency and avoid homelessness. MAM's primary target area served is the Spring Branch ISD.

A non-profit organization, MAM provides, largely to working poor faced with immediate personal and family crises, emergency financial assistance and other services designed to put clients back on their feet. MAM also works closely with the local school district to identify and assist economically at risk children who might otherwise drop out of school at an early age. MAM's member congregations include 31 area churches. Assistance is provided solely on the basis of need, without regard to race, creed, color or religious affiliation (if any).

A primary objective is to prevent homelessness. Trained volunteers evaluate a client's needs and authorize services within MAM's financial capability and/or recommend other charitable agencies. The emphasis is on helping with the immediate problem, hopefully leading to longer-term improvement in the client's life.

- Rental assistance to prevent eviction
- Clothing from the MAM Resale Shop
- Limited medical assistance and prescription drugs
- Christmas Project (adopt a family)
- Utility assistance for gas or water to avoid cut-off or to restore service
- Spring Branch ISD referrals for uniforms, eyeglasses, medical treatment and prescriptions
- Job Bank: MAM volunteers provide employment counseling and job leads from various sources including the internet.
- Jo Ann Parker English School: MAM operates an English as a second language (ESL) school at the John Knox Presbyterian Church on Gessner

MAM is working to provide long term solutions for the underemployed. English as a Second Language programs improve conversation and literacy skills, the Job Bank helps to find better paying jobs, families can enroll in Harris County's sliding fee scale medical insurance plan, the Gold Card and CHIPS and we help register for food stamps. Each year during tax season, families find free assistance with tax preparation and filing including the Earned Income Credit. And when it is simply too much and the stress of living in poverty has compromised one's ability to function, MAM has been able to provide short term mental health counseling with the help of Family Services of Greater Houston.

