Allied in making a difference
MISSION & VISION

**Mission:** To advance high-impact collaboration, service excellence and organizational development among community assistance ministries.

**Vision:** ACAM envisions a community that is supported by a network of faith-based collaborative ministries that provide opportunities for families and individuals to meet and rise above their basic needs.

We do this through:

- Collaboration
- Training
- Networking
- Setting the Standard
- High Impact Programs
- Advocacy
- Brand Promotion

Collective action requires infrastructure. Through ACAM, a dynamic, high-performing network of member ministries, funders and community partners increase impact and more effectively respond to the needs of the community.
Established in 2004, ACAM is a 501(c)(3) management support organization committed to supporting excellence in social services and organizational development for community assistance ministries (CAMs) in the Greater Houston area.

Funder Partners have the opportunity to:
• Hear from the collective about community needs
• Obtain information on collaborative impact
• Participate in high-engagement philanthropy
• Leverage limited resources

ACAM couples grants with strategic, hands-on support and provides not only crucial funding but also networking, problem solving, planning and evaluation. By joining ACAM, an individual organization has:
• Access to capacity building expertise
• Eligibility to apply for funding for new service models, organizational development and targeted staff training
• A network of peers for information exchange and support
• Opportunities to work collectively toward a common agenda

ACAM is an excellent model of a member-driven intermediary organization that helps those agencies to “do more mission.” We are very pleased to have watched it grow from a concept to a stand-alone organization, and are excited about its potential to expand both its number of members and the extent of services they provide the community.

— R. Terry Bell, President Rockwell Fund, Inc. and Board Chair, ACAM, Inc.

The Collective
Our members are faith-based nonprofits that provide basic needs such as food, clothing, rent and utility assistance to prevent homelessness and help people become self-sufficient. As a collaborative, members further the pursuit of shared goals and contribute to each others’ success.

Annually, our members serve more than 250,000 people with 72 different types of services including food, clothing, employment services, rent/ utilities assistance, and much more.

Most people do not understand how the nonprofit sector has evolved into a complex segment of the economy. ACAM recognizes the need for the professional development skills and capacity building support that assists nonprofits like St. Vincent’s House to grow and maintain in this modern environment.

— Michael Jackson
Executive Director, St. Vincent’s House

Strengthening ministries, empowering communities.
Peer learning and networking are vital to successful organizational development. ACAM empowers its members to learn from each other and grow together to coordinate services, to better plan for services and to allow organizations to focus on their core competencies. To strengthen this network ACAM convenes the following five groups, each with a different focus, for the purpose of networking, training and collaboration:

- Executive Directors
- Volunteer Management
- Program Development
- Resource Development
- Thrift Store Institute

ACAM also hosts events for funders and ministries to develop connections outside of the framework of the ask/give relationship. These networking opportunities provide a venue for community assistance ministry leadership and funders to learn about topics of mutual interest, to exchange information about best practices and to gain perspective about each other’s work in the community.

In 2013, 100% of ACAM training participants agreed that the training programs are relevant to their work.

Thanks to ACAM and my peers, I have learned ways to keep lines of communication open with staff, volunteers and the board; implement meaningful tips on applying for grants and meet potential funders through direct access to them or their staff; and find innovative ways to better deliver services to clients.

—Suzy Domingo
Executive Director, Interfaith Caring Ministries

ACAM was founded on the principle of collaboration. The vision was to engage funders in a new way with social purpose ministries. Investments were designed to build the capacity of the ministries by developing the strong leadership and sound organizational infrastructure that are required for sustainability. The grantor – grantee relationships that resulted have had a powerful collective impact in the face of natural disasters and economic crises, enhancing the ministries’ ability to meet the ever-growing demand for services. It has been a privilege to represent United Way of Greater Houston as a founding partner and to watch ACAM flourish in today’s rapidly changing environment.

—Ronnie Hagerty, Ph.D., CFRE, AVP Community Relations, United Way of Greater Houston
Through our Collaborative Initiatives Program, ACAM garners resources to help members leverage their collective strength to address emergency situations that affect the community. The ministries are uniquely positioned to work together effectively as a model for collaboration and coordinated services. Members share:

• Neighborhood-based accessibility to clients
• Minimum bureaucracy
• A strong, committed volunteer base
• Enhanced fund development due to congregational support and social enterprise

ACAM helps ministries reach out to other partners to create effective and responsive initiatives. ACAM secured funds and advocated to:

• Help members navigate the city-wide food crisis
• Boost members’ back-to-school efforts
• Provide free counseling services at four member ministries
• Support homeless prevention during the economic downturn

ACAM Collaborative Initiatives have prevented homelessness for over 1,000 men, women and children served by three of our member ministries.

A better equipped staff has created a higher-performing organization, resulting in enhanced capacity for client service delivery, employee job satisfaction/retention and innovative thinking – all of which have positively impacted our agency.

— Jean West Evans
Executive Director, Emergency Aid Coalition
Through Advocacy & Outreach, ACAM increases membership, highlights the role of ministries as service hubs in their communities and raises awareness around the issues affecting the people served by the ministries. ACAM provides a unified voice in working with local and state-level policy-making groups regarding the needs of the ministries and their clients. ACAM is a member of Alliance for Nonprofit Management, Coalition for the Homeless, Coalition of Behavioral Health Services, One Voice and Texas Association of Nonprofit Organizations (TANO).

ACAM has changed my perspective on Memorial Assistance Ministries’ (MAM) role in the Greater Houston area. Our organization sees itself as a part of a broader network with high professional standards. ACAM members expect that our work will reflect organizational excellence ultimately measured by our impact on those who live in poverty.

— Martha Macris
Executive Director, MAM

As advocates for our members, ACAM coordinates with philanthropic and government agents to enhance community awareness and obtain funding to help those in need.

— David E. Ruiz
Senior VP, Houston Market Manager
Bank of America
Building a brighter future.

As a means of building their capacity, ACAM provides organizational assessments to identify strengths and weaknesses, assists members in creating growth plans and awards grants for plan implementation. These assessments focus on nine elements of organizational capacity:

- Financial Management
- Board Leadership
- Human Resources (Paid Staff and Volunteer)
- Fund Development
- Program Strategies and Outcomes
- Community Relationships
- Technology
- Facilities
- Executive Director Leadership

As I look back, I am amazed at how Epiphany Community Health Outreach Services (ECHOS) has evolved due to the nurturing and constant support provided by ACAM over the past several years through technology, additional staff and the development of an active board of directors. By providing resources, training and opportunities for active discussion between members on best practices, ACAM challenges each of its member agencies to grow to their full potential and beyond.

— Jean Kegler, Executive Director, ECHOS

Nothing is more important than strengthening organizations so they can be more successful. Through its network and learning opportunities, ACAM helps its member agencies harness their passion for the work to focus on the elements that make them strong, better able to carry out their mission and ensure their viability.

— Linda K. May
Executive Director/President, The Simmons Foundation

Of the more than $5.7 million support provided to our members and program participants, nearly $2.7 million, or 49%, has been awarded for capacity building projects and professional development.

Between 2007 and 2010, ACAM’s membership increased capacity by an average of 35%.
ACAM matters.

As a management support organization representing a unique constituency, ACAM’s programs for its members are customized and collaborative. Our role in the community is one of both an advocate and a catalyst. ACAM members are partners in their own organizational development. They develop plans within the structure of ACAM’s organizational assessment tools in an individualized way that fits their strategic goals. ACAM helps its members develop collaborations and service models to strengthen the community. Members have ownership over their networking groups and trainings to ensure that offerings meet their needs. In the community, ACAM helps to create awareness of the benefits of the CAMs and their clients’ needs in order to forge mutually beneficial relationships that produce positive results.

In 2012 and 2013, ACAM was honored with prestigious Top-Rated Awards by GreatNonProfits, the leading provider of user reviews about nonprofit organizations. The Top-Rated Nonprofit awards were based on the number of positive reviews that ACAM received – reviews written by volunteers, donors and clients. For example, one person wrote, “ACAM is an extraordinary example of collaboration at its finest. It is an honor to be associated with this visionary organization which facilitates the building of my agency’s capacity in meaningful ways. We benefit from being part of a larger organization of resources, from being exposed to new and best practices, from networking with other Ministry professionals, and from being held accountable for our growth. Houston’s neighbors in need benefit exponentially because of the high engagement relationships between funders, consultants, ministries and their boards.”

ACAM Honored as a Top-Rated Nonprofit by GreatNonProfits Two Years in a Row

ACAM, Inc. is committed to transparency and, as a result, earned a GuideStar Exchange Seal in 2012 and a Silver Exchange Seal in 2013. Exchange seals are provided to nonprofits that update their GuideStar reports to the fullest—sharing information, documentation, photos and video with GuideStar’s millions of site visitors.

Community Assistance Ministry Members

- Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
- East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry
- Emergency Aid Coalition (EAC)
- Epiphany Community Health Outreach Services (ECHOS)
- Humble Area Assistance Ministries (HAAM)
- Interfaith Caring Ministries (ICM)
- Katy Christian Ministries (KCM)
- Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM)
- My Brother’s Keeper Outreach Center
- St. Vincent’s House
- Wesley Community Center
- West Houston Assistance Ministries (WHAM)

ACAM Funder Partners

- Amegy Bank
- The Andrews Foundation
- Bank of America Charitable Foundation
- Community Health Choice
- Episcopal Health Foundation
- Frees Foundation
- The George Foundation
- The Hamill Foundation
- The Henley Foundation
- Houston Apartment Association
- Houston Endowment Inc.
- JP Morgan Chase
- LaPorte CPAs & Business Advisors
- The Lewis and Joan Lowenstein Foundation
- The Margaret and Joel Shannon Charitable Trust
- Rockwell Fund, Inc.
- The Simmons Foundation
- Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs
- United Way of Greater Houston
- Wells Fargo