

# BEYOND THE BALL

## MEMPHIS ATHLETIC MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER

### Newly renovated golf course welcomes disc, foot and regular golfers

Nestled in the heart of urban Memphis are 48 acres of green, grassy slopes where outdoor enthusiasts of all ages are welcome. The MAM Park outdoor activity center offers our community and its people a place to experience healthy outdoor recreational activities free of charge. Our ultimate goal is have a godly community influence in urban Memphis.

Recent renovations in 2015 have created more ways to enjoy this beautiful property located off Airways Blvd. in South Memphis. The MAM Park outdoor activity center now includes an 18-hole championship disc golf course, a 9-hole beginner's disc and foot golf course and an accredited 9-hole foot golf course. The original course includes a 9-hole golf course, 9-hole chip and putt course and 9-hole S.N.A.G. (Starting New at Golf) course.

Besides offering the general public access to the games listed above, our outdoor activity center gives us another way to involve more under-resourced youth in MAM programming. Disc golf and foot golf do not require specialized training to play. Only a disc or a soccer ball is needed. These new courses, together with the SNAG golf course, allow many boys and girls to be exposed to two newly popular sports in a safe, secure environment. The course is an avenue for MAM to build deeper mentoring relationships.

We invite groups and individuals of all ages to enjoy the course. It is open Monday – Saturday from 9:00 am until dark. Multiple groups can be at MAM Park simultaneously playing the different games. Individuals do not have to schedule a time to play. Come and bring your friends!

If you are a disc golf enthusiast, you will be glad to know that the Memphis Area Disc Golf assisted in planning and designing the championship disc golf course and the beginner course. Also, the foot golf course follows the guidelines of the U.S. Foot Golf Association.

If you are interested in scheduling a group, contact Rajah Brown, Chief Program Officer at: [rbrown@mamsports.org](mailto:rbrown@mamsports.org) or 901.461.6269.



## MAM Insights from the President: God's intention is revealed at KAA camp

This summer MAM had the opportunity to take over 50 boys and girls to Kids Across America, one of the best camps in America serving urban youth. For our kids, a temporary change of environment can be life changing, especially if that environment is a fun, safe, Christ-centered place in beautiful Branson, Missouri!

A temporary change of environment can also reveal God's intention for friendship. A group of five MAM Leawood girls, a mix of Latino and African American ethnicities, spent a week at camp together. Often these two cultures have difficulty co-existing at school and in their neighborhoods. At MAM Leawood, the girls refused to hang out together even during Bible study. They did not grasp that Christian friendship is to be like the friendship of David and Jonathan, as stated in I Samuel 18:1, "Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself."

At camp, two of our young ladies, one Latino and the other African American, were placed in the same cabin, each separated from their own group of friends. Away from home, each girl did not have a buddy to cling to. They only knew each other. Both girls started to experience a change of heart. They began to see similarities, not differences. They realized they actually liked each other and most importantly, they learned that God desires friendships no matter our backgrounds.

The friendship built at camp grew stronger once the girls were home. The girls did not return to their former cliques; they truly became friends. They now treat each other with love, respect and honor, replicating true friendship based on the type of love Christ shows us. And like a campfire, their friendship spread, igniting camaraderie among all the MAM Leawood girls.

2 Corinthians 5:18 reads "All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation." As God calls kids to Himself, He reconciles our differences and builds close friendships.

Building friendships is one reason MAM plans to take 100 kids to camp next summer. Please pray that camp will be a reality in 2016. Pray for our kids to grow in their relationships with Christ and with each other.

Thank you for being on the MAM team.

*Randy*

### Did you know?

MAM is passionate about Memphis and all things 901. So to show our passion, we have created a t-shirt for those who live in 901.

T-shirts are only \$15 and available in adult sizes, small – 3xl. To order, go to [mamsports.org](http://mamsports.org).

Shipping is \$5 per order or you can pick up at MAM Park Golf, 2146 Ball Road, Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

The shirt makes a great Christmas present!



*MAM Leawood campers, Katherine, age 10, and Milah, age 11, discover friendship at KAA camp.*



*Being together for a week at camp has created camaraderie among the five MAM Leawood girls.*



## MAM success story: Leroy Grimes

### About Leroy

- Age 24, MAM participant since 7th grade
- Accepted Christ at 14, 2009 graduate of Hillcrest High School
- Obtained emergency medical technician certificate from Southwest TN Community College in May 2015
- Currently employed as a full-time youth coordinator at the Memphis Grizzlies Center

*"The reason I went to MAM in seventh grade was Coach Rod Hinton. I had always thought a Christian was someone wearing a suit and always carrying a Bible. I knew Coach Rod was saved and I could relate to him by the way he dressed; he was more urban; he was funny and I loved our one-on-one conversations."*

– Leroy Grimes, former MAM youth and MAM staff member

### Rajah Brown, former MAM Whitehaven director and current Chief Program Officer, talks about Leroy:

FAITHFUL, AVAILABLE and TEACHABLE describes Leroy. When I met Leroy in 2007, he was a quiet, unassuming high school freshman who loved basketball but wasn't very athletic. Leroy caught my attention in spite of his athletic ability, or lack thereof, on the basketball court. He was at MAM Whitehaven every day from open to close, extremely mature for his age and always taking ownership in maintaining the gym.

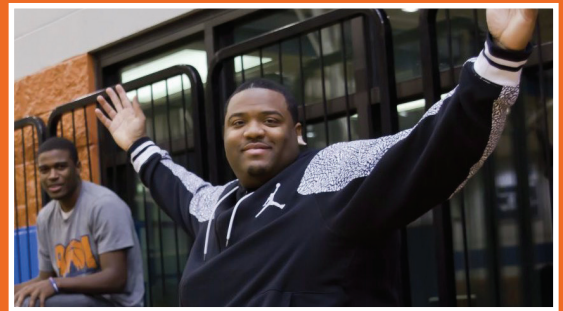
Leroy quickly became the most faithful young man in my discipleship group. I poured into him everything that I wished I had been taught as an African-American kid growing up in a single parent home: from basketball and dating to changing a flat tire and managing finances. Most importantly, I helped him understand how to apply the Word of God to his life. Leroy's walk speaks for itself. It has truly been a privilege to be a part of his maturation into a man of God. He has gone from the most faithful member of my high school core group to my current accountability partner!

### Leroy tells how MAM impacted his life:

At MAM I learned how to be a godly man. Rajah and Rod hated when I made excuses about why I couldn't do certain things. They wouldn't take no for an answer. They made me follow-through and keep my word. Rajah, in particular, hounded me to be better and to seriously commit to following Jesus and finding His will for my life. Rajah invested time in me one-on-one. He taught me how to drive and took me to get my license. Rajah helped me with school problems – especially geometry! He took my education seriously and helped me see that God's purposes for my life were way bigger than me.

Through MAM, the most important thing I learned is that having a relationship with Jesus is the only thing in life that truly matters.

To read a longer version of Leroy's story, go to <http://mamsports.org/Leroy>.



*Leroy is faithful, available and teachable.*



*MAM kids love Coach Leroy!*

## Off the court

Recently our MAM Olivet boys and girls, grades 3 – 12, participated in the citywide 2015 Faith In Action Memphis Cleanup. And our MAM kids won the award for nonprofit groups with 50+ participants from Memphis City Beautiful. MAM kids had fun meeting people from other parts of Memphis and seeing how working together made a difference.



*Jaden Veasley, 4th grader, proclaimed "I picked up lots of yucky trash."*



*"I really had fun being with my friends and helping clean up."*

**THANK YOU FOR BELIEVING IN OUR MISSION.** Each contribution makes a difference.

To donate by credit/debit card, go to [mamsports.org/Give](http://mamsports.org/Give).  
You can make a one-time donation or set up a recurring monthly gift.

To donate by cash or check, complete the form below and mail to 2107 Ball Road, Memphis, TN 38114.

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