

MAM Insights from the President: Reimagine our youth

We believe Memphis is a city of great opportunity. Our youth are no exception. Opportunity youth are 16 to 24 year olds who can add value to their regions if they reconnect with school and/or jobs. Memphis has nearly 50,000 opportunity youth who are neither in school nor working. The highest percentage in the country.



Memphis also has about 80,000 children (approximately 40 percent of all children under 18) who live in under-resourced homes. Another one of the highest percentages in the country.

It is a disturbing reality that almost one of every two children in Memphis are living in poverty. But the child poverty rate is not a secret. There's no lack of knowledge - only a lack of action.

In a city with such pride about its faith and its belief in the American Dream, the Tigers and the Grizzlies, it is unsettling that most citizens give little thought to child poverty. If these children are out of sight, they are out of mind.

We brag about rising graduation rates but only 7% of high school seniors are prepared for college or career. We must do better. This monumental task belongs to everyone, including MAM, our city and county governments, schools, faith-based organizations, churches, the families of these kids, and the kids themselves.

Forzando's story on the next page will help shift our perceptions. We must reimagine how we see these kids, to see them as assets rather than problems. We must help them reimagine themselves and see themselves as having value in their hometown. PLACES CHANGE WHEN PEOPLE CHANGE.

I ask you to join us and make an investment in the children of our city. Your investment will not only change the life of a child but will change your life as well.

Thank you,

Randy



Did you know?

We are pumped to be partnering with the Memphis Redbirds and RBI (Returning Baseball to the Inner City) this summer as we start MAM baseball! Our first MAM Baseball Clinic on March 11th was a huge success. Our kids are so excited to learn and play this sport!

