



# BEYOND THE BALL

*"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." 3 John 1:4*

## What has your MAM coach taught you about Jesus?



My MAM coach has taught me that God will never give up on me. He gives us a chance even though we don't deserve it. Having faith is believing in something that I cannot see.

Akeila, age 16, 10th grade



My MAM coach has taught me that God is my Savior, and He gave up His Son to forgive our sins. My coach taught me that even when it feels like no one is there, God is. My coach taught me that God is the One Who created me and provides for me. In conclusion, God has done many awesome things.

Trinity, age 10, 5th grade



My MAM coach taught me that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died on the cross for our sins, so we can have eternal life.

Jose, age 11, 5th grade



He is my Lord and Savior. I asked Him to forgive my sins, and He gave me eternal life. We can ask Him for anything. We should worship Him and read our Bibles. We need to spread His word.

Pacarie, age 15, 10th grade



We learned about God's grace, that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and that He is the living water.

Shamere, age 10, 4th grade

## Grand Opening at MAM MLK

On September 11, we officially cut the ribbon at our new MAM MLK center. In partnership with Frayser Community Schools and the Pursuit of God Transformation Center, MAM is becoming a stabilizing force in Frayser. Over 100 teens are attending every day, and that number continues to rise.



# MAM Insights from the President:

## The Power of Sports

---

MAM is the largest youth sports organization in Memphis. We primarily serve youth who live in six urban zip codes, but MAM's influence on youth through the power of team sports often extends far beyond the Memphis city limits. Meet Caleb Weiss, a young man from the suburbs.

I am close friends with Josh Weiss, Caleb's older brother. Josh played on MAM Founder Kelvin Bowen's AAU team many years ago. Four years ago, when Caleb was 10, Caleb's dad Keith called me and asked if MAM had a team for Caleb to play on. I said, "Of course we do, and Coach Damion Hughes is just the coach for Caleb."

Most of our MAM kids come to the gym every day, so their circle of friends is established. Caleb was shy, and his self-confidence was what I expected it to be for a 10-year-old kid walking into an unfamiliar environment and meeting new people. Fortunately, MAM has a team-building culture that creates connection quickly no matter where a child is from or the color of his or her skin.

"Playing basketball at MAM is a great experience for Caleb and our whole family. On his first day of practice, he was nervous, but the young men on the team were so welcoming. They didn't care that he was not from their neighborhood; they only cared that he could shoot the basketball and play defense," says Keith.

With encouragement from Damion, Caleb quickly fit in, and became a leader among his peers. This past season as a 14-year-old, Caleb walked into the gym as a different young man. Caleb had some swagger. He was more confident, and he competed in a way that I hadn't seen before.

Through sports, MAM has an impact on boys and girls throughout Shelby County. At MAM, we welcome any young person to take part in MAM sports. So, as you come across boys and girls who want to be a part of a team, call us and we will hook them up, just like we did for Caleb.



Sincerely,  
**Randy**

## Did you know that MAM saves our families \$1.8 million?

A recent evaluation of MAM's impact on poverty by Slingshot Memphis, Inc., estimates that MAM creates \$1.8 million a year in benefits for our families. By taking advantage of MAM's after school program, our parents can work more hours, saving money on childcare and food.

Intangibly, our parents also benefit from knowing their children are safe, nurtured, and loved.



## Become a MAM MVP

Will you start a monthly gift today? By giving monthly, your gift becomes a long-term investment, allowing you and MAM to team up together and impact many lives.

Your monthly gift gives us the leverage to grow our ministry. It ensures that MAM can open additional centers in underserved neighborhoods. Most importantly, more MAM coaches will help more youth find their identity in Christ and their purpose in the community.

Visit [giving.mamsports.org/mam\\_mvp](https://giving.mamsports.org/mam_mvp) to become a MAM MVP today!

## MAM dedicates flag football season in memory of Brandon Archer, MAM youth coordinator

*"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me." John 14:1*

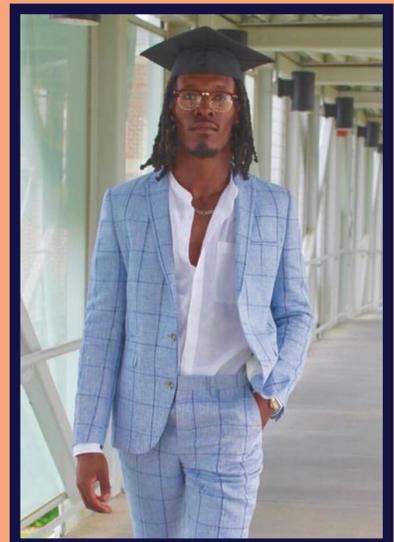


Brandon Archer, a former Christian Brothers High School and Middle Tennessee State University football player, had only been working at MAM Leewood for a month when he drowned on a canoe trip on Labor Day, one day before his 22nd birthday. The loss of such a vibrant, young man on the threshold of beginning his adult life is heart-breaking. Yet, we can find solace in knowing that Brandon is with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Brandon's foremost ambition was to serve the Lord at MAM. He was passionate about sharing the gospel with the MAM Leewood boys and girls. He believed the biblical truths of John 14, a comforting testimony to all who knew him during his short tenure on earth.

*"In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am, you may be also." John 14:2-3*

On October 26, our flag football tournament will take place. MAM teams, based on age and gender, will compete against each other for a winning trophy in their respective divisions. On that day, a young man and young lady who displays high character, integrity, good sportsmanship, and respect will take home the Brandon Archer Most Valuable Player Award.



**Brandon Archer will be forever young, and his influence will never be forgotten.**



**Memphis Athletic Ministries**  
**6000 Briarcrest Ave.**  
**Memphis, TN 38120**

**MAM is passionate about all things 901.**



Our new 901 t-shirts are \$20 and available in adult sizes, small – 2XL. To order, go to [mamsports.org](http://mamsports.org). Shipping is \$5 per order, or you can pick up at the MAM Office, 6000 Briarcrest Avenue, Monday-Friday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

This shirt makes a great Christmas gift!

**Help a teen realize their potential!**



We are seeking mentors for our high school Amplify Mentor Program (AMP). Twenty youth, based on character, academics, and teachability, apply and interview to participate in AMP and with your help, receive a mentor for the school year.

A mentoring relationship has the power to alter a teen's life for the better. You may be the only stable, positive impact in a student's life. The ripple effect is tremendous!

To learn more, contact Kenyatta Morris, mentor program director, at [kmorris@mamsports.org](mailto:kmorris@mamsports.org).