



BEYOND THE BALL

MAM opens a new center serving the Frayser Community

MAM has recently opened a new center in zip code 38127 located in MLK College Preparatory High School. Ernie Prude, who has worked with our youth since 2011, is the neighborhood director.

This new location gives 575 students, grades 9-12 at MLK Prep, and 310 students, grades 6-8 at Westside Middle School, access to mentoring through sports.

We believe that God is leading our efforts to serve this community. We have received much support from community leaders, pastors, and school principals.

Our prayer is that the presence of MAM will better Frayser by being a stabilizing force for youth in that community. We are praying that the infusion of mentors and organized sports as well as Bible studies, homework help, and career readiness training will produce responsible adults who positively impact Frayser for years to come.

Please join us in praying for Ernie and the Frayser staff as they begin to coach, grow, and lead at MLK Prep.

Within a 20-minute walk of MLK Prep:

- There are 2,341 households with a population of 6,972.
- 98.3% of the population is African American.
- The average household income is \$35,009, and the median is \$25,130.
- 870 (37.2%) of the households in the area have a child 18 and under.
- Of these 870 households, 677 (78%) are single-mother households.



Merry Christmas in July



We are gearing up for the most wonderful time of the year when our supporters help us make Christmas possible for MAM families. At the Colonial Target, selected parents will have the joy and dignity of shopping with MAM staff for presents in early December. No kids allowed!

Thanks to our generous donors, the 2018 MAM Christmas Store served 146 children. Help us prepare early to serve more kids!

Give online at giving.mamsports.org/christmasstore.

OR mail a check, memo "Christmas Store," to
2107 Ball Rd, Memphis, TN 38114.

MAM Insights from the President: MAM MLK, From Vision to Reality

When I first moved to Memphis in 1996, I lived in the Raleigh-Frayser area. I disciplined a few young men who attended Frayser High School and Westside Middle School. Eight months ago, I walked into MLK College Preparatory High School with a sense of déjà vu, a homecoming of sorts. I could feel purpose and passion as I walked those halls and entered that gym.

A conversation I had with Ken Moody, Special Assistant to Mayor Strickland, and Pastor Ricky Floyd of Pursuit of God Transformational Center started the vision for a MAM center in Frayser. Pastor Floyd and Ken had a vision of a partnership between MAM, MLK Prep, and Pursuit of God. Pastor Floyd then introduced me to Bobby White, Founder and CEO of Frayser Community Schools. Bobby gave MAM an open door and entrusted us with this vision.

Over the last eight months, our team at MAM has worked days, nights, and weekends to make that vision a reality. On Thursday, July 11th, the doors opened for the first time. The voices of kids rang loud and clear, the sound of joy to our ears. As we say at MAM, “an empty gym is a useless gym.”

We are excited about our ministry’s direction and the opportunity to work with Frayser community leaders. The vision for MAM MLK reflects the collective vision of Bobby White, Pastor Floyd, Ken Moody, and many others who have been faithfully laboring for positive change in Frayser. As always, we welcome your time, talent, and treasure as we continue to take MAM’s mission to the children of our city.



Sincerely,
Randy

Connect with a Coach: Damion Hughes



Former MAM kid and current youth coordinator at the MAM Grizzlies Center, Damion describes himself as a living testimony that God can use anyone! His favorite part about working at MAM is being able to give back to kids that remind him so much of himself. He gets to stand up every day and proclaim the truth of the Gospel – that MAM students can choose God no matter where they come from or what they have done. Damion also enjoys the opportunity to be transparent with MAM kids. He loves being a “big kid” around them and showing them that “you can always have fun no matter how old you are.”

What Change, What Joy a Year Can Bring! Jerjuanna Fountain, MAM youth coordinator

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6

If I said working at MAM was smooth and easy, my students would undoubtedly look at me with smiles and ask me for 50 push-ups for lying!

This past year has been painful, fearful, challenging, and confusing. Yet, the joy, patience, trust, and love that I’ve learned and received from my students is something in which I’ll forever be grateful to the Lord.



Coming into MAM, I thought I was going to be teaching my students everything I knew about Jesus. Teaching deeply and intimately because I have been where they are, so I should know how to reach them. Little did I know, on most days the Lord made my students, the teachers and me, the student!

Through these children, the Lord has shown me what dependency looks like. It is not merely a shared ownership or responsibility to help, nurture, and save my students. It is a call to give them over to Him, all while continuously giving myself over to Christ as well. I am to be used as a vessel for His glory alone.

Each day over the past year, these students have helped me truly learn, grow, and see what unconditional love and trust looks like. I’ll never forget one of our girls, during Bible study, just could not do the trust fall. She explained that she didn’t even trust her family, so why would she trust any of us? Finally, she fell back. When she realized that she didn’t hit the ground, that someone who cared enough to keep her safe was there, she leapt up with such joy, such freedom. I couldn’t help but rejoice with her.

Nevertheless, the student who caught her was the one who brought me to my knees. After seeing her classmate so excited about being caught, she walks to me and says, “Coach I had to have faith and trust that I would have the strength to catch her!”

In that moment the Lord spoke to my heart and simply said, “Learn these postures from these children. Even in fear and doubt, you can still trust that when you fall on Me, when you fall on Christ, I’ll be there to catch you. Even when times seem hard, confusing, and challenging, have the faith and trust to know that I’ve given you the strength to stand, catch, and hold whatever this race may bring.”

MAM Jr. NBA Program of the Year Finalist

In May, MAM was named as one of six Jr. NBA Program of the Year finalists. Although MAM did not win, we are honored to be nationally recognized as a youth basketball organization that embodies the core values of the Jr. NBA through our programming and makes an extraordinary impact on Memphis youth.





Memphis Athletic Ministries
2107 Ball Rd.
Memphis, TN 38114

Testimony from LaQuita, MAM Grizzlies Center Parent

I'm so thankful for MAM. Jacob's father is incarcerated, and I work several different shifts at several different jobs to provide for Jacob. The time MAM has with my son after school, I wish I had with him.

If it weren't for MAM, my son would be at home by himself unsupervised until I got home from work. Because of MAM, he comes to the gym after school, is with other kids, plays sports, and if he's acting up, I know he's going to be corrected and steered in the right direction. Because of MAM, he has male influences in his life who show him how to be a man and what a real man looks like.

I want Jacob to be at MAM always. I want him to be a part of the Career Readiness Program when he gets older. Maybe one day, he may even work at MAM, be a coach, and pay it forward. I just want MAM to know how much I appreciate everything they do for Jacob.





MAM KIDS GO TO CAMP, SUMMER 2019

KIDS ACROSS AMERICA (KAA) camp,
a Christian camp for urban youth in Branson, Missouri

Psalm 121:1-2 "I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth."

Jada, age 15, MAM Hamilton



This was my first time to ever go to a camp. It was neat meeting high school kids from all over the world and learning about their different cultures.

And of course, to learn more about Jesus. Camp made me realize I need a person in my life who is a good example to help me learn what the Bible says and help me grow in my relationship with Christ. Coach Kasey is now discipling me, and I am so glad.

Jamerious, age 13, MAM Olivet



My favorite activity was tubing. I had to trust in my lifejacket because I can't swim! Trusting in the lifejacket is like trusting in Christ. I can't do it on my own. I must put my trust in Jesus in order to get to Heaven. Just like with the life vest, if I put my faith in God even if I go under, I will come back up.

I also learned that when I mess up, it is my mistake, but it impacts everyone else. In our cabin, when one kid said, "shut up," everyone including the coach had to do push-ups. One camper's rudeness impacted all of us.

Cousins Aaliyh, age 16, and Itiara, age 15, MAM Hamilton

Before I went to camp, I didn't really read the Bible. At KAA Bible studies, my counselors told me to spread the Gospel to other kids. So, when I got home, Itiara and I decided to do a Bible study with Jamiyah, my 10-year-old cousin, in the morning before we come to MAM and after dinner each night. We want to make this our daily routine and read the Bible over and over and teach Jamiyah, too.



At camp, I learned that we should spread the Gospel, so I got Jamiyah, my 10-year-old cousin, to read the Bible. I told her that the Bible says you can't hold grudges against each other because Jesus didn't hold grudges against us when we sinned.

We ask that you pray for all 49 campers to continue to seek Christ. Pray that all campers will be surrounded by believers who will watch over them, nurture them, encourage them, correct them, and keep them accountable.