

2024 Q3 Stakeholder Report

Executive summary

- Published initial final MemWorks reports, including the [Employment Roadblocks Summary Report](#) and [Postsecondary Attainment Business Case](#)
- Provided thought partnership with several nonprofits to help them take actions that enhance the impact for their participants, including Multinational Memphis, HopeWorks, and Memphis Medical District Collaborative
- Supported Raymond James' corporate giving in Memphis by sharing effective practices and programs associated with the focus areas it seeks to support
- Presented effective poverty-fighting insights at a national workforce development conference, the 2024 [TEDx Memphis](#), and the New Memphis Leadership Summit
- Welcomed [Shawna Engel](#) and [Larry Robinson](#) as new board directors



As you consider your end-of-year philanthropy, we invite you to contribute to Slingshot's Accelerate Impact Fund. If we could lower Memphis' poverty rate to match the national average, nearly 55,000 Memphians would achieve economic mobility. Slingshot is catalyzing this change, and your investment accelerates this movement.

It's time to **Invest in Memphis and Fund What Works**. We do not have to wonder if nonprofits are making a difference, because Slingshot can measure it! And, 100% of your contributions to the Accelerate Impact Fund are allocated to nonprofits based on their impact, so you can know your philanthropy is making a difference.

Invest in Memphis, Fund What Works

Objective #1: Improve the effectiveness and outcomes of poverty-fighting organizations

Impact Study completions. Ten impact studies were completed in the third quarter of the year. The results can be viewed at the links below:

- [Catholic Charities of West](#)
- [MyCityRides](#)
- [TN Economic Opportunities](#)
- [Neighborhood Christian Centers](#)
- [Empowered to Connect](#)
- [Oasis of Hope](#)
- [JIFF](#)
- [Room in the Inn](#)
- [LIFELine to Success](#)
- [Tech901](#)

Improving poverty-fighting effectiveness beyond impact studies. We provide thought partnership to help the nonprofits we work alongside take actions that improve their poverty-fighting impact. Two recent examples are highlighted below:



To increase English-language proficiency for refugee and immigrant women, we supported Multinational Memphis redesigning its English for Moms program. Together we developed a logic model with desired outcomes, a set of effective interventions, pre- and post-surveys to measure progress, and an implementation plan. Devin Schniepp, Executive Director, shared “I really appreciated the time and effort from the Slingshot team in the research and thought about how we could make changes / improvements...I felt truly supported.”



HopeWorks was seeking an immigration attorney to better understand the barriers immigrants can face finding employment and obtaining legal status. Shelley Johnson, Slingshot Impact Associate, has a law degree and practiced nonprofit immigration law prior to joining our team. Shelley spent two hours with HopeWorks' staff explaining the nuances of immigration law and answering questions to help empower them to enhance employment outcomes for its immigrant participants.

Sector-based workforce strategy with Memphis Medical District Collaborative.

To help address the employment roadblocks identified by MemWorks, we have partnered with the Memphis Medical District Collaborative to support its Hire Local program that provides pathways into healthcare sector jobs. We are assisting their strategic planning to further enhance employment outcomes and incorporate best-in-class practices for sector-based workforce programs. We recently completed a gap analysis that identified strengths and opportunities and researched apprenticeship program best practices.



Objective #2: Increase the allocation of financial resources to the most effective poverty-fighting efforts

Supporting Raymond James' corporate giving in Memphis.



In advance of making recent funding decisions, we were able to share information about effective practices and programs in the areas Raymond James seeks to contribute. We celebrate Raymond James' willingness to incorporate evidence into its giving decisions and for being an example of how businesses can support effective poverty-fighting in Memphis.

2025 MPACT Awards Planning Committee.

The 2nd annual MPACT Awards will be held February 20, 2025 to recognize the most effective and most improved poverty-fighting organizations Slingshot studied in 2024. We are incredibly grateful for our planning committee members contributing their time and many talents to make the event even better this year. We look forward to seeing you at the event!



- Carrie Benitone
- Dave Curran
- Shawna Engel
- Wyeth Green
- Harriet McFadden
- Nancy Hula Mills
- Ryan Robertson
- Larry Robinson
- Kris Walden
- Alison Wetter

Save the Date

Objective #3: Equip decision-makers with the insights and tools to make more evidence-based decisions

Initial MemWorks' final reports published. We started publishing the [final reports](#) for the MemWorks workforce development initiative. The [Employment Roadblocks Summary Report](#) provides a narrative around each of the 11 employment roadblocks. The [Postsecondary Attainment Business Case](#) is the first of several business cases that synthesize the information needed to overcome each roadblock. A business case includes a summary of the evidence, the evidence-based interventions, an analysis of the Memphis landscape, specific opportunities for impact, and the anticipated outcomes.



SHIFT national workforce development conference. We are grateful to the National Fund for Workforce Solutions for inviting us to present at its SHIFT Toward an Equitable Future workforce development conference. Leaders from MDRC, The Greater Memphis Chamber, and The Collective Blueprint joined us to share MemWorks' innovative approach with a national audience.



2024 TEDx Memphis. John Dunavant, Slingshot's Director of Insights & Impact, presented at 2024 TEDx Memphis. His powerful remarks reframe thinking about transformational changes to be like building cathedrals, which are frequently started by one generation and finished by another. Despite the time to realize these changes, we should not stop working urgently towards them. [Listen to John's inspiring talk.](#)





New Memphis Leadership Summit. John Dunavant presented at the New Memphis Leadership Summit in August. John challenged the audience to rethink philanthropy. He shared a simple framework to help guide how we can allocate our time (volunteering) and resources (philanthropy) in ways that will lead to the greatest impact for intended beneficiaries.

Organizational Updates

New Slingshot board directors. We are excited to welcome two new directors to Slingshot's board.



Shawna Engel
Board Director



Larry Robinson
Board Director

Additional 2024 Principal Investors. We appreciate the those who invested last quarter to support Slingshot's mission by funding our operating budget. Their support enables Slingshot to conduct impact studies at no cost to nonprofits.

Families and Individuals

- Lisa & Jody Brown
- Bill Townsend
- Anonymous Family

Organizations

- FedEx
- International Paper
- Kemmons Wilson Family Foundation
- Raymond James

Sincerely,

Jared Barnett
CEO

About Slingshot Memphis

Slingshot Memphis is the catalyst for making the most impactful poverty-fighting decisions so all Memphians can have equitable opportunities to thrive. Our work improves the effectiveness and outcomes of poverty-fighting organizations, influences the allocation of financial resources to the most effective efforts, and empowers decision-makers to be more evidence-based.

