

2023 Q2 STAKEHOLDER REPORT

Executive summary

- Completed phase I of our workforce development initiative ([MemWorks](#)) and published our findings about the [population, employment roadblocks](#), and [employment myths](#)
- Spoke about the need for outcomes-driven decision-making at the Mentoring Matters in TN summit and the nonprofit management program at Christian Brothers University
- Agreed to work alongside 5 new poverty-fighting organizations, bringing the total number we work with to 51 organizations
- Welcomed [Fred Towler](#) (Retired, International Paper) and [John Martinez](#) (Vice President, MDRC) and to our board of directors
- Received a [half a million dollar investment](#) from Tommie & Billy Dunavant and celebrated the Thomas W. Briggs Foundation as a new Principal Investor

INSIGHTS

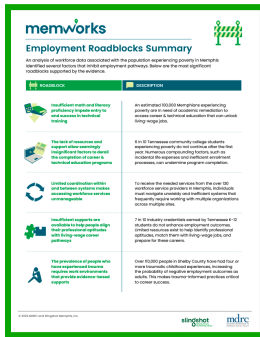
Poverty-fighting benefits of home repairs. Programs that provide home repairs for households with low-incomes can be a tool for increasing stability and reducing crime. [According to HUD](#), nearly 1 million U.S. households in 2019 lacked basic features such as plumbing, electricity, or heat. 75 percent of participants in an emergency [home repair program](#) in Detroit stated they would not have been able to make the repairs without the program. In Philadelphia, [a program](#) found that street blocks with houses that had been repaired experienced less crime than similar streets, and that even less crime occurred if more houses on the block had received repairs.

Improving healthy food choices for youth. According to the [U.S. Center for Disease Control & Prevention](#) (CDC), 42 percent of children in the State of Tennessee eat less than one vegetable per day and 36 percent eat less than one fruit per day. To help promote healthier eating, farm-to-school programs have been implemented by schools and early-childhood organizations. These programs use various approaches such as gardening, farm visits, culinary classes, and taste-testing fresh food from local farms to help teach children about healthy food by engaging all five senses. [Evidence shows](#) well-designed farm-to-school activities improve the quality of children's diets by increasing daily fruit and vegetable intake and willingness to try new fruits and vegetables.

MOVEMENT

Memphis Works for Everyone (MemWorks). We concluded the first phase of the MemWorks initiative and recently published the [MemWorks website](#) and [Insights page](#). These tools are a resource for our community to understand the underlying, root causes for why employment pathways are not connecting Memphians experiencing poverty with living-wage jobs. We invite you to review these initial reports to better understand the current situation for [Memphians experiencing poverty](#), the [major roadblocks](#) they face to living-wage employment, and several [employment myths](#) that are not substantiated by evidence.

Employment Roadblock Summary



Common Employment Myths



Population Snapshot



Sharing our revolutionary poverty-fighting approach with other organizations. John Dunavant, Slingshot's Director of Insights & Impact, was invited to speak on the need for outcomes-driven decision-making with two Memphis-based organizations. At the Mentoring Matters Summit of TN, John spoke about how combining human-centered approaches like mentoring with data-informed decisions can bring about incredibly positive change in Memphis. At Christian Brothers University, John shared insights about how to measure the effectiveness of social sector programs with a class of existing or aspiring nonprofit leaders in the Graduate Certificate of Nonprofit Management program.



IMPACT STUDIES

Impact Study progress. We completed 5 impact studies and commenced another 10 impact studies in the second quarter. The reports for impact studies completed in Q2 can be viewed at the links below:

- [Advance Memphis](#)
- [Just City](#)
- [MyCityRides](#)
- [SOS \(report coming soon\)](#)
- [Tech901](#)



New poverty-fighting organizations. We welcomed five additional poverty-fighting organizations to participate in the Impact Study process, bringing the total number of organizations we work alongside to 51. We celebrate their commitment to transparency and engagement in the movement to revolutionize poverty-fighting. These five organizations are:

- [AngelStreet](#)
- [The Collegiate School of Memphis](#)
- [Community Legal Center](#)
- [HopeWorks](#)
- [LifeDoc](#)



Our next round of impact study expansion will open on Monday August 28th. If you know organizations that might be interested in working with us and participating in the poverty-fighting revolution, please invite them to [learn more about our expansion process](#).

ORGANIZATIONAL

John Martinez and Fred Towler join Slingshot's Board of Directors. We are excited to announce two new board directors. [John Martinez](#) is a member of the executive team at [MDRC](#), one of the nation's premier research & social policy institutions. John's expertise will help us further enhance our impact study methodology and ability to provide empowering insights. [Fred Towler](#) recently retired from a 36-year career at International Paper as Vice President of Talent Management and Chief Diversity Officer. Fred is a native Memphian whose multi-functional background and experience will support Slingshot's growth.



John Martinez



Fred Towler

Principal Investments. At our Annual Meeting for Slingshot's Principal Investors, [Tommie Dunavant announced a \\$520,000 investment](#) from the estate of Billy Dunavant. We are profoundly grateful to Tommie & Billy Dunavant for their deeply held belief that Memphis is worth investing in. In announcing the investment, Tommie shared something Billy said shortly before he passed: "Slingshot has succeeded, with both its people and its projects. It is now continuing to evolve and it has to continue to evolve in order to survive. It is making a difference in our city, Tommie. It is making a difference."

We are also excited to celebrate the Thomas W. Briggs Foundation as a new Principal Investor with its investment to support Slingshot's operations.



THOMAS W. BRIGGS FOUNDATION

Slingshot's Impact Objectives. We have defined four Impact Objectives to help measure our progress toward achieving our mission and vision. We look forward to using these objectives to help hold our organization accountable. For more context and information about these objectives, consider listening to this [Impact Objective overview](#).

1. Improve the effectiveness and outcomes of poverty-fighting organizations
2. Increase the allocation of financial resource to the most effective poverty-fighting programs
3. Equip decision-makers with the insights and tools to make more evidence-based decisions
4. Contribute to the reduction of poverty and the increase of opportunities in Memphis

Principal Investor Annual Meeting. In May, we held our annual meeting for principal investors at the new MyCityRides location. Two poverty-fighting organizations we work alongside spoke about our first impact objective. [Keusi Donald](#) of Economic Opportunities and [Anna Wilcox](#) of Neighborhood Christian Centers shared how their engagement with Slingshot has helped enhance their programming and the outcomes experienced by their participants.



Sincerely,

Jared Barnett
CEO

About Slingshot Memphis

Slingshot Memphis is a poverty-fighting center of influence that's igniting a movement to revolutionize the way we fight poverty so all Memphians can have equitable opportunities for success. To turn our mission into reality, we help improve the effectiveness and outcomes of poverty-fighting organizations, influence the allocation of financial resources to the most effective programs, and empower decision-makers to be more evidence-based.

Slingshot cannot achieve this mission on its own. You can revolutionize poverty-fighting by:

- Investing in Slingshot's [Accelerate Impact Fund](#) to support organizations based on their effectiveness to know your philanthropy is making a difference.
- Using the [reports and insights](#) on Slingshot's website in your poverty-fighting efforts and encourage others to do as well.