

2025 Q2 Poverty-fighting Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 📈 We hosted our Annual Investor Meeting at FedEx Logistics Global Headquarters to review key accomplishments from 2024 and highlight exciting examples of how our work is revolutionizing poverty-fighting effectiveness
- 🧑‍🤝‍🧑 We welcomed Mark'Quest Ajoku and Sarah Jones to the team, who both joined as Impact Associates
- 🔗 In collaboration with The Collective Blueprint, we launched the Workforce Collective to help increase economic mobility for thousands of young adults by streamlining employment pathways
- 📍 We moved to Broad Avenue in Binghampton. Slingshot's office is now located at 2481 Broad Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38112

OBJECTIVE #1: IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS AND OUTCOMES OF POVERTY-FIGHTING ORGANIZATIONS

Impact Study conclusions and kickoffs. Three impact studies concluded in Q2: Advocates for Immigrant Rights (AIR), Memphis Teacher Residency (MTR), and Service Over Self (SOS). The reports from these impact studies will be posted on [Slingshot's website](#) in the coming weeks. Additionally, three impact studies commenced in Q2: Multinational, Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP), and Peer Power.



Healthcare Workforce Development Strategy. The Memphis Medical District Collaborative’s Hire Local program aims to strengthen the healthcare sector’s workforce development pipelines by partnering with employers and training providers to integrate training, education, and employment opportunities for residents in and around the Memphis Medical District. Recently, we supported the launch of four new training pathways—Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN), Medical Assistant, and Sterile Processing Technician—that were selected due to having high-demand from local healthcare employers, providing a living-wage salary, and having clear career progression opportunities.

[Check out this article from The Daily Memphian](#) highlighting Hire Local’s expansion.



Workforce Collective. Alongside The Collective Blueprint, we are leading a collaboration of nine workforce training providers to collectively address the most significant challenges young adults face along the skills development and employment pathway. We are currently identifying these challenges via a combination of secondary research and interviews with workforce participants, training providers, and employers. In the second half of 2025, we will launch initiatives to design, pilot, and implement solutions to overcome the prioritized challenges.



OBJECTIVE #2: INCREASE THE ALLOCATION OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO THE MOST EFFECTIVE POVERTY-FIGHTING EFFORTS

MPACT Awards featured on CityCurrent. Jared Barnett and John Dunavant joined the [CityCurrent](#) show with [Jeremy Park](#) to recount highlights from the Second Annual MPACT Awards and share examples of how the award recipients are fighting poverty.



OBJECTIVE #3: EQUIP DECISION-MAKERS WITH THE INSIGHTS AND TOOLS TO MAKE MORE EVIDENCE-BASED DECISIONS

Sylvamo Community Partner Day and Treehouse Chat. In April, several teammates represented Slingshot at Sylvamo's Community Partner Day, which was an opportunity for Sylvamo's employees to get a high-level overview of the corporation's community engagement efforts. In May, Jared Barnett joined a panel with leaders from Sylvamo and tnAchieves to discuss the [Postsecondary Attainment Project](#), a coordinated effort between corporate funders, private foundations, Slingshot, MDRC, and tnAchieves to boost graduation rates for low-income students at Southwest Tennessee Community College.



Deloitte Friends and Alumni Networking Event. Lara Bullock, Jared Barnett, and John Dunavant attended the Deloitte Friends and Alumni Networking Event and shared ideas for how Deloitte’s current and former staff could contribute to poverty-fighting efforts across the city.



National Youth Employment Coalition Conference. Josh Gettys, along with our project partners from MDRC, Annie Utterback, Sonia Drohojowska, and John Martinez, attended the National Youth Employment Coalition Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota to present insights from [MemWorks](#).



Chairman’s Circle Workforce Task Force. Jared Barnett presented to the Workforce Task Force of the Greater Memphis Chamber Chairman’s Circle to share insights about how local businesses can unlock Memphis’ untapped workforce. Recommendations included: deepening their understanding of the employment roadblocks, defining existing—and incorporating new—business practices, partnering with local workforce development organizations, and supporting projects that systematically address employment roadblocks.



CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE

Leadership Tennessee NEXT Program. Jared Barnett was featured on a Leadership Tennessee NEXT Program panel alongside leaders from St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Lifedoc Health, and the Memphis Education Fund to discuss social determinants of health in the Memphis community.



FedEx Focus Groups. As an example of how MemWorks continues to shape workforce development efforts, we conducted several focus groups with employees at the FedEx World Hub to help FedEx identify the employment roadblocks that are most relevant to their employees. The insights from these discussions are being used to shape the focus of FedEx’s corporate giving and to identify potential HR adjustments.



ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

Annual Investor Meeting. In April, we hosted our Annual Investor Meeting at FedEx Logistics Global Headquarters. This event is one way we maintain accountability to those who fund our work by highlighting the impact their investment has toward achieving our mission. The room was filled with some of the most forward-thinking philanthropists in the city, and we’re inspired by their passion for helping us revolutionize poverty-fighting effectiveness.

Mark'Quest Ajoku and Sarah Jones joined the team. We are excited Mark'Quest Ajoku and Sarah Jones have joined Slingshot's team as Impact Associates. Mark'Quest and Sarah will primarily be responsible for leading impact studies to help improve the effectiveness and outcomes of the poverty-fighting organizations in our portfolio.



New office. Slingshot's new office is located 2481 Broad Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38112. Stay tuned for opportunities to come see our new space!



Sincerely,



Jared Barnett

President & CEO