



2023 GENEROSITY REPORT

A Word from David

You are an important part of MTR's story. You have celebrated and supported our mission to express Christian love through equal education over the past 14 years. You made it possible to recruit, train, and support 700 aspiring teachers and have helped them become educators who have made a difference in the lives of 150,000 students in Memphis.

And with your help, we began the Memphis Literacy Institute in 2021. Through it, Memphis teachers are mastering proven research-based best practices of teaching children to read. This mastery is laying the groundwork for all Memphis children to experience the life-changing joy and dignity of reading at grade level. Every page turned and every young mind sparked has been made possible through the grace of God shown in your support.



This Generosity Report is a reflection of your investment in MTR. Within its pages, you will find stories and data that showcase your incredible impact. As I read them, I was inspired and reminded of the inherent goodness in our pursuit of quality and equal education. I encourage you to read and reflect on these narratives -- they are a testament to the profound difference we are making together.

You make our teachers' work possible, and for that, I am deeply grateful. And, I believe, the best is yet to come.

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Ivan rarely smiled. Now he beams with pride.

*A Memphis Literacy Institute teacher—
and your generosity—unlock a student's potential*

When teachers are empowered with understanding the science of reading, they are able to empower their students to learn to read. As teachers are learning and growing professionally, their students directly benefit as they grow academically. With you in her corner, 4th grade teacher Gretchen Biere has done just this. And her students can't stop smiling.

Gretchen, a 2017 MTR and 2022 Reading Specialist graduate explains, "My time there was amazing. The training I received affirmed the values I already had and paired them with the pedagogy, best practices, and science of teaching and reading that I needed.

"Teaching reading used to feel like casting a wide net and hoping to catch some fish." But these days when she thinks of how much she's improved, her face lights up. "The training enabled me to apply what I'd just learned right away. This directly impacted what and how my students learned the next day. It's made all the difference."

When Ivan first arrived in Gretchen's classroom, "he hardly ever smiled." It was clear right away that for Ivan, school was a gauntlet of confusion, frustration, and failure. Gretchen could literally feel his pain by osmosis. But she lived her values faithfully. She believed in Ivan with all her heart.

By the end of the school year, Ivan was a different person. His reading, writing, and math skills had all markedly improved. "There's this one picture of Ivan at the end of the year. He's beaming with pride. I love it. It makes me so happy."



You promote justice through literacy when you support MLI-trained teachers like Gretchen.

Thanks to you, every year, more and more people like Gretchen are entering the world of teaching. And more and more children like Ivan are reaching their full potential.

**"It's really powerful," Gretchen says.
"Ivan believes in himself now. Every kid deserves that."**



Your kindness is the guiding force behind Zach Villegas' graceful excellence in the classroom, empowering him to cultivate success and inspire the next generation of Memphis students.

Teacher Residency

CRUSHING IT: ZACH, MISTY, AND THEIR LUCKY STUDENTS

You are cultivating graceful excellence for Memphis teaching, learning, and paying it forward

Zach Villegas—a fourth grade teacher at Berclair Elementary School in Memphis—is not the type to brag. He speaks of others' strengths. He expresses gratitude for his success as an MTR graduate now beginning his first year as a mentor teacher to an MTR resident.

So when Zach talks of crushing it, he's referring to his mentee: current MTR resident Misty Metcalf, who spends four days a week in Zach's classroom as part of her internship. "Misty is awesome," Zach says. "I'm so happy for her. Just today, she led a lesson, and it was really cool to see the growth she's made in only two weeks in the classroom."

Becoming a teacher was never a clear path for Zach. But once he found himself living in Memphis and volunteering with children, something clicked. Since then, your generous support has been a guiding force on his journey from novice to expert... from MTR resident to MTR mentor.

"I was surprised by the culture of encouragement at MTR," Zach explains. "Everyone here is incredibly supportive, and that's made a huge difference. I keep this in mind with my students. Believing in them is a powerful thing. And they deserve it."

"I was at a time in my life when I didn't know my direction. Now I'm making an impact. Your generosity has blessed me and many other people."

After four years of teaching, Zach feels competent enough to take on the role of a mentor. "It's been great," he says of mentoring Misty. "She's come so far already. I'm really proud of her."

Zach attributes MTR's success to its organizational systems and expertise. "The organizational systems instilled into residents provide the classroom with a sense of consistency and clarity," he notes. "It's really smart the way they've set everything up."

When the subject turns to YOU, our supporters, Zach is a bit emotional. He pauses for a moment, searching for the right words. "Personally, I've reaped the benefits. I was at a time in my life when I didn't know my direction. Now I'm making an impact. Your generosity has blessed me and many other people."

Your investment in the lives of Memphis teachers is not just a contribution to education. It's an act of love and justice.



Misty's Teacher Training: Thriving Under Zach's Guidance, Powered by You

Your generosity is a caring hand that's helping shape many young lives throughout our communities. Your love shines a light for teaching, learning, and serving others. That's why people like Zach are creating classroom environments that cultivate success — and are happy to pay it forward.

Thank you for being the beating heart of excellence in Memphis education—empowering our next generations to “crush it” every day!

The Principal's List—for monthly donors only!

“NOW WE ARE ABLE TO GIVE BACK WHAT WAS GIVEN TO US.”



Ashleigh and Austin Bettis' journey with MTR has been life-changing—thanks to the generosity of people like you. Back in 2011, they were eager teachers-in-training. The education and tight-knit community you made possible equipped Ashleigh and Austin to build rewarding careers...and a family. Today, they are MTR's first-ever married couple “matched” in residency and feel very blessed with three wonderful kids and professional success.

Austin shares, “The residency opened my eyes to public education and set me on a life-changing career path. Ashleigh and I just loved our jobs, and still love the kids, the city, everything. I'm so grateful.”

Once the couple was established, the decision to give back seemed obvious. “It feels very full-circle,” Ashleigh explains. “Now we are able to give back what was given to us.” Their monthly gifts are a sustaining force in MTR's mission to improve our Memphis communities and lives for generations to come.

Join the Bettis Family on the Principal's List—be part of making equal education a reality!



RESIDENCY

On the annual TN Teacher Prep Report Card, out of 42 programs, MTR has earned either the highest or second highest score in each of the past five years.



MTR LITERACY CAMP

After just three weeks of camp, students experienced growth in foundational skills that equated to 0.7 academic years.



STEM DISCOVERY CAMP

100% of fellows, campers and families would recommend the STEM Fellowship and Camp to their peers.



MEMPHIS LITERACY CONFERENCE

After this year's sold-out conference, 93% of attendees said they were likely or highly likely to shift a specific literacy practice as a result of their learning.



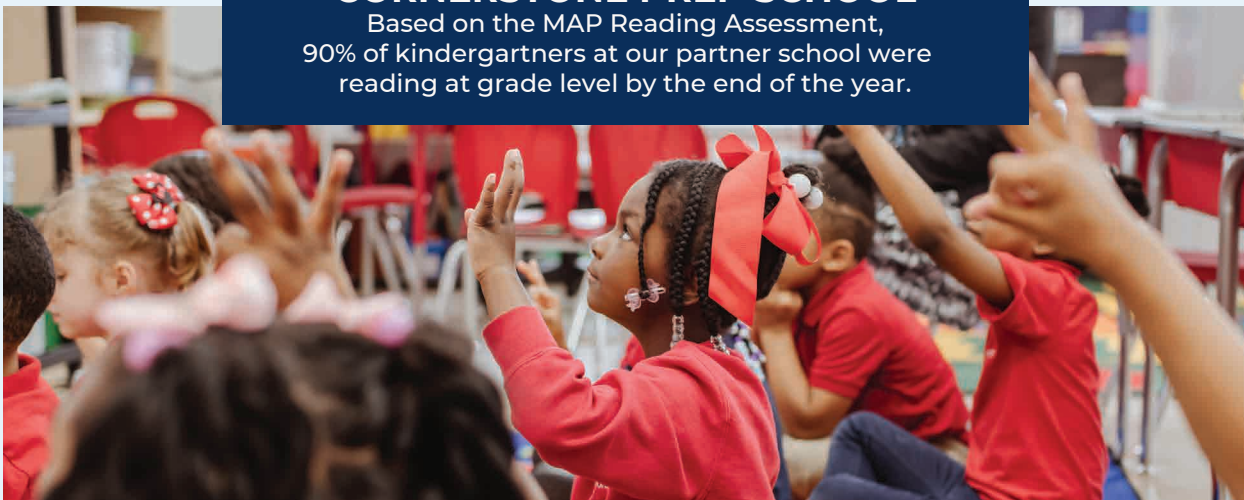
READING SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION

Now in our third year, we have trained 58 teachers and leaders within our Reading Specialist Certification program.



CORNERSTONE PREP SCHOOL

Based on the MAP Reading Assessment, 90% of kindergartners at our partner school were reading at grade level by the end of the year.



We believe that educational inequality
is one of the greatest human and
civil rights issues in America today.

THANK YOU for enabling the work of equal education with us!



 **MEMPHIS TEACHER RESIDENCY**

christian love expressed in **EQUAL EDUCATION** *restored communities living with* **DIGNITY AND IN PEACE**

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We are proud to be a grantee of AmeriCorps.



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