THE MAKING OF AN URBAN COMMUNITY

Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort. 2 Corinthians 1:7

Prior to the Civil War, Memphis was considered one of the fastest growing cities in the United States. The Vance Avenue neighborhood, in particular, was a primarily white, upper class neighborhood consisting of beautiful homes. St. Agnes Academy and Elmwood Cemetery, all east of a growing downtown area.

Captured early in the Civil War by Union Troops, the city became a safe haven for many escaped slaves. These African Americans moved into a city filled with tensions between the federal authorities, rebellious citizens and a growing Irish immigrant population.
THE FOUNDATIONS OF HOPE

“None of us is in our ‘place’ by accident. And as his people, we have a job to do: to seek the shalom of the place God has placed us, to pray for it, to invest in it.” —Larry Lloyd, Recovering from Racism

SHAPING ADVANCE MEMPHIS
- Neighborhood Foundations
- Advisory Committee
- Washington Scholars
- The Chuiners Center
- CMCAP

SHAPING STEVE NASH
- Ken Bennett
- Second Presbyterian Church and Sandy Allison
- John Puckett and Christian Community Development Association
- Urban YL
- Steve's Family
BUILDING HOPE

Commit to the Lord whatever you'd do, and he will establish your plans.
Proverbs 16:3

2002
Steve hires Ann Brainard as his first employee

1999
Steve begins Advance Memphis

Strengthening Relationships within the Community

Ann Brainard
Ann developed the first programs of Advance Memphis, a community development organization that builds leadership through voter registration and a political education. The organization combined organizing and voter registration with a coalition of community groups working to elect Democratic candidates. Today the organization leads the largest voter registration and mobilization effort in the state.

Steve Nash
Steve drove his grandmother’s old 1999 Toyota Camry into the 38122 neighborhood Monday morning, May 10, 1999. With Ann Brainard as his guide and a fire box for employment leads, Steve began to carefully build trust with members of the community through loving people, loving the community and being present. Five days a week for years Steve and Ann would meet in the morning at the First Baptist Church of Memphis, then spend several hours touring the neighborhood and connecting with people knew them. "I was a broken man," he says, "but we all are saved by God's salvific grace."
RESTORING HOPE

“He defended the cause of the poor and needy, and so all went well. Is that not what it means to know me?” declares the Lord. Jeremiah 22:16

2006
Purchases building at 769 Vance Avenue

2005
Advance Memphis adopts Jobs for Life curriculum (now Work Life)
HOPE FLOURISHING

“Work allows us to fulfill our God-given vocation of creatively unpacking creation's potential.” —Michael Rhodes

FLOURISHING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

St. Paul Garden

ER2

Homes in the neighborhood

2012

St. Paul Garden starts

2010

HSE/GED program starts

2009

Advance Memphis Staffing Service starts

Donald and Juan Jenkins

Tucker Family

A Broader Scope of Flourishing

Experiencing Hope Through HOPE and Hope Management on the corner of Second and Main. St Paul Garden sits on the corner of Dandridge and Main. Yarnell’s House sits on the corner of Main and Airways. This has been a city block from the very beginning. It is a place where we all come together to make this place called Memphis better.
HOPE SHARED

“...these are relationships that look like the Kingdom of God.”
—John Laughlin, Ally in Work Life program

2018
Purchases 960 South Bellevue Warehouse

2017
Expanded to serve both 38128 and 38106 zip codes

2015
Publishes Work Life curriculum
Purchases 375 Suzzette Warehouse
HOW WILL YOU JOIN US IN SEEKING HOPE FOR AN URBAN COMMUNITY?

SHARE YOUR HOPES

VOLUNTEER
"They try to help everyone that needs help and make sure you do the right thing and go in the right direction."

"I have learned that there's hope."

"Advance has impacted me on the fact no matter how old you are there's still hope."

"I can do anything I want if I put my mind to it."

"I've learned what perseverance and humility looks like."

"It gives people in the neighborhood hope to get a G.E.D. and to get job training."

"Extend mercy and grace and yet hold people accountable."

"It has given me the opportunity to be nearer and have firsthand knowledge of the suffering and pain that I otherwise could have kept at a distance."

"I have seen Jesus change so many lives at Advance Memphis and Greater things are about to happen."

"Never give up and try for what you want."

"You can actually see and be able to understand how deep and rich the Body of Christ is and His creativity in diversity and gifting has been something that I've been learning."

"Advance is giving back to the neighborhood."

"No one is too broken to be reconciled and recreated in their lifetime."

"Our neighbors are able to build their lives with tangible skills that will support their livelihoods."

"I failed the 1st time but it didn't stop me from coming back."

"Advance has provided stability in an unstable neighborhood, constancy to a neighborhood in transition, and order to a place often full of chaos."

"The local church needs the opportunity to find ways to interact with the poor and injustice so that God can help us see him at work in all of life."

"Advance Memphis staff is the most amazing family on the planet!"

"It is all about what we do for Christ and His People. It is not about us. It is not about me."

"Advance is a place for second chances and then some."