



2010 MAM Neighborhood Center Participant Survey Results

MAM recently conducted a survey of our 138 most active participants. All of these young people have been active for at least two years in our programs and are having at least three contacts a week with MAM staff members. We believe the integrity of the survey was at the highest possible level because individual results were anonymous. What we learned was encouraging regarding the effectiveness of MAM's staff and programs.

Here are the results of the survey:

- ❖ **96% planned to attend college-** With a graduation rate of only 62% in Memphis City Schools (TN Education Report Card), we believe it is vital that our youth have hope for the future. Clearly the MAM youth are thinking in positive terms about their future.



- ❖ **69% attended church regularly-** Nationally only 42% of Americans regularly attend church. MAM youth are 1.6 times more likely to attend church than the national average.
- ❖ **52% had participated in community service projects-** While we have no comparable statistics, we believe that this percentage of youth giving back to their community is significant.

- ❖ **MAM participant drug/alcohol/tobacco use significantly lower than Memphis average-** The Memphis average (National Youth Risk Behavior Survey) for drug, alcohol and tobacco use by high school students was 3 times, 5 times and 16 times greater respectively than the MAM average.



- ❖ **97% reported that MAM staff was above average-** Hiring, training and retaining a compassionate, engaged youth staff has always been a major emphasis for MAM.
- ❖ **98% reported that participating in MAM activities has made them a better person-** When asked the areas in which they had

seen a difference, our youth reported these as the top areas of improvement:

<u>Area of change</u>	<u>Positive Difference %</u>
Have better attitude towards adults	77%
Have better attitude towards peers	72%
Am happier	67%
Show more personal responsibility	66%
Pray more often	64%
Talk more positively about the future	64%

It is clear that our community benefits from youth who respect others, themselves and God. While MAM alone cannot claim credit for these results, MAM youth are telling us that our mentoring and other programs are working.