

## **LSDI Executive Summary: Interning with MARRS**

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Founded in 1987, Memphis Leadership Foundation (MLF) is a non-denominational outreach ministry that aims at helping the city by implementing different ministries and programs that focus on the needs of under-resourced people and communities. Mediation and Restitution/Reconciliation Services (MARRS) is a ministry of the Memphis Leadership Foundation that was created in partnership with Christ United Methodist Church in the 1990's. MARRS addresses the issues of young people in our city who are in trouble with the legal system for the first or second time. For the Kingdom is a camp for inner city youth. FTK's purpose is to provide a fun place where city youth can learn about Christ. This summer, I was MARRS summer intern, and I served as an intake specialist. I also served as an outreach worker at FTK. This summer I witnessed several campers give their lives to Christ.

In the mornings, I worked at the office, facilitating a character trait class and doing case work. I also served lunches to neighborhood kids through the City of Memphis lunch program. I spent my evenings at FTK. At FTK I helped with adventures, team building exercises, dinners, club time (praise and worship), and I also supervised volunteers that came daily from different churches and organizations around Memphis.

In addition to my internship, I learned about restorative justice, system thinking, and self-fulfilling prophecy. During my research about these theories, I realized that I could use this in my personal life. Reflecting over my time in Memphis has helped me to realize that I am in a great moment in my life and everything is going well. This summer has given me more confidence and knowledge that allows me to see the possibilities I have when it comes to living a purposeful life.