

CASE STUDY

THE ASSISI FOUNDATION
OF MEMPHIS, INC.

**RiseKit Empowers the Assisi
Foundation to Foster
Socioeconomic Mobility and
Support Untapped Talent on
Their Employment Journey**

CASE STUDY

Recognizing the Need for Change

The Assisi Foundation, dedicated to effective philanthropy, serves as a cornerstone in Memphis and the Mid-South. Through strategic partnerships with nonprofits, they aim to uplift communities and foster positive change.

Tiffanie Grier, Program Officer at the Assisi Foundation, brings her expertise in workforce development to the table, acutely aware of the challenges facing Memphis's workforce ecosystem: many workforce providers were struggling with enrollment and program completion.

“ We wanted to offer a tool to better connect the fragmented workforce development ecosystem to better serve the community and increase social upward mobility----versus supporting smoke & mirror programs with less than mediocre outcomes due to a lack of collaboration and meaningful relationships within the sector.”

- Tiffanie Grier, Assisi Foundation, Program Officer



Recognizing the fragmented nature of workforce development efforts in Memphis, the Assisi Foundation sought to bridge these gaps by partnering with RiseKit. Their aim was to foster collaboration among stakeholders and improve outcomes for Memphis residents, ultimately facilitating social upward mobility.



From Assessment to Strategic Investment

Conducting a thorough landscape assessment, the Assisi Foundation uncovered significant room for improvement in Memphis's workforce development ecosystem. RiseKit emerged as a strategic tool to address these challenges, enabling the Foundation to invest in connectivity within the community.

RiseKit provided a centralized platform to streamline workforce efforts, empower community leaders, and catalyze connections within local workforce ecosystems. By offering insights, fostering collaboration, and identifying intervention opportunities, RiseKit aimed to enhance the employment journey for individuals while supporting untapped talent.

Despite initial hurdles with employer engagement, the partnership with RiseKit **“has been overwhelmingly positive”** for the Assisi Foundation. The inclusive and authentic approach of RiseKit resonated well within the community, offering a balanced, smooth, and rewarding collaboration experience.

30%

Key insights from the assessment revealed that only an estimated 30% of talent successfully found employment, highlighting the need for more effective collaboration to unlock opportunities for overlooked and diverse talent in Memphis.

“The partnership with RiseKit has been truly rewarding. It provides an inclusive platform where everyone in the workforce development ecosystem has a seat at the table. This contrasts with other endeavors that tend to be hierarchical”

-Tiffanie Grier, Assisi Foundation, Program Officer

Enhancing Mobility Outcomes Together

The Assisi Foundation actively promotes RiseKit within the community, recognizing its potential to revolutionize workforce development in Memphis. Testimonials, such as that of Atheia, a graduate of the Goodwill Excel Center, highlight the platform's effectiveness in supporting social upward mobility.



RiseKit was a great resource for me and other classmates to help continue to climb the ladder in employment. I loved the way the platform was set up!”

- Atheia, Goodwill Excel Center Memphis Graduate

Moreover, organizations like Opportunity R3, a program of the City of Memphis hosting 4-week cohorts for opportunity youth (16-24, not working, not in school), have found tremendous value in RiseKit.



Our method for conducting surveys and storing participant information greatly improved with RiseKit. It streamlined our processes, allowing for easier communication and access to data. RiseKit has transformed our workflow from paper copies stored in filing cabinets to everything being easily accessible,”

- John Cowherd, Pathways Specialist at Opportunity R3



Conclusion

In conclusion, strategic partnerships like the one between the Assisi Foundation and RiseKit are instrumental in addressing workforce development challenges. By fostering collaboration and leveraging technology, they create a more inclusive and effective ecosystem, empowering individuals to reach their full potential.

Are you ready to **mobilize** your workforce ecosystem?
Schedule a consultation today!

About RiseKit

At RiseKit, we are advocates for equal access to fulfilling job opportunities. We believe in breaking down barriers and ensuring that everyone, regardless of their background, has the chance to pursue a rewarding career.

Our community-driven recruitment solutions bring together employers, social services, and workforce and education leaders to connect untapped talent with family-sustaining wage employment, promoting inclusive development and support for historically marginalized communities.