



COMMUNITY INFO SHEET

Nashville, TN

Things Nashville is Known For:

The music scene has historically dominated Nashville's reputation. The city is home to many major music labels and the Grand Ole' Opry. Nashville is also known as the "Vatican of the Protestant Faith," due to the many denominational headquarters located there. Nashville has great food, people and the only to-scale replica of the Parthenon.

Nashville History:

Nashville was founded as a shipping and trade center and has recently become one of the fastest growing economic centers in the United States, drawing many new residents each day. What once was a working class city has become something else entirely. As new people moved into the city, it broke down into many smaller neighborhoods based on social and economic differences.

Nashville neighborhoods each hold a unique identity. As the city has evolved, it has become increasingly gentrified causing old neighborhoods to take on new identities. In the last few years, the Nashville area has become known for cool coffee shops, art galleries, live music, restaurants and other fun local places. These gentrified areas attract young professionals, tourists from around the country and liberal minds, but not everyone reaps the benefits.

Along with all the positive aspects of the city's development, increased cost of living has forced African American families and those with low income out of Nashville. We work in neighborhoods and neighboring towns including Antioch, Edgehill, East Nashville and Hermitage where income inequality takes the form of new developments a block away from government subsidized housing. Be prepared to encounter both sides of this urban tension in Nashville.

This rapid growth creates challenges in the community like gentrification, income disparity and a lack of affordable housing for families who have called Nashville home for generations. There are many organizations in Nashville working towards positive change for the city and providing resources to struggling residents.



Nashville Census Stats:

NASHVILLE METRO AREA POPULATION: 1.9 million

RACE :

- Black or African American – 15.1%
- White (Non-Hispanic) – 71.5%
- Hispanic or Latino – 7.43%
- Asian – 2.85%

Typical Weather in Nashville:

During the summer, Nashville experiences hot weather. The temperatures can range from the low to high 80s and may dip down to the 60s at night. Additionally, the city is very humid, making it feel hotter than it is. Summer is right at the end of the rainy season, so rainfall may persist in the area. Participants should pack layers for the weather as it will get hot when working outside in the sun, but cooler in the evenings and if it rains.

YouthWorks in Nashville:

YouthWorks has been serving in Nashville since 2010. The site was born from a partnership with the United Methodist Church's division of Young People's Ministry. However, in 2014 YouthWorks shifted focus away from serving just the Methodist Church Ministry and expanded to other churches, nonprofits, social service agencies and ministries around the city of Nashville. YouthWorks exists in Nashville to support local organizations that work to resource families in Nashville amidst the ever-changing landscape, including the Nashville Rescue Mission, Habitat ReStore, food programs, thrift stores, nursing homes and other similar ministries.

Issues in Nashville:

GENTRIFICATION

Gentrification is defined "as the process of a poor urban area being changed by wealthier people moving in, improving housing, and attracting new businesses, typically displacing current inhabitants in the process." Many communities throughout Nashville are feeling both the positive and negative effects of gentrification. Neighborhoods close to downtown once drew teachers, writers, and musicians with well-built, well-priced Craftsman homes. But with the influx of wealth has come a new kind of buyer, often an investor offering cash well above the asking price. A house that went for \$40,000 a decade ago might now go for fifteen times that amount.

HOMELESSNESS

In 2020, the Nashville Mayor created a specific program to address this crisis in the community, called Metro Homeless Impact Division. While the program is making headway by finding creative housing options, there is still a lot of work to be done in the effort to find affordable housing options for those experiencing homelessness. This will continue to be a long-term project which will have a lasting impact on Nashville. In May 2022 it was reported that the city has seen and experienced a decrease in homelessness. There has been a 5% decrease, which is a great starting point.

Positive Opportunities & Why Serving in Nashville Matters:

ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

Many of the nonprofits, social service agencies and church pastors we partner with in Nashville have been serving the community for years. Outsiders bring fresh energy, willing hands and the chance to build relationships. Community partners are encouraged by YouthWorks involvement in their organizations.

RELATIONSHIPS

Relationships are often the vehicle by which we learn about a community and the unique challenges the people encounter. Giving people an opportunity to share their story communicates value and mutuality between YouthWorks participants and community members.

BREAKDOWN STEREOTYPES

You will experience firsthand the tension residents living in the city encounter due to the city functioning as a major tourist destination for people and families, and a thriving musical/artsy city offering hope to thousands trying to make their big break. There is an opportunity to see the beauty of diversity outside of the tourist locations and learn from a different culture to spark a new perspective.