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MARY ANN SWETLAND  
CENTER FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

# The Swetland Scoop

January 2021

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## News & Announcements

### A Note from Our Director

Dear Partners and Friends,

On behalf of the Swetland Center team, we wish you a happy, healthy, and hopeful 2021! While 2020 was a roller coaster, the twists and turns provided space for us to lean in to our partnerships more than ever. We learned the best laid plans are no match to a global pandemic and embraced a spirit of adaptation out of necessity. We also witnessed transformation at individual, organizational, community, state, national, and global scales spurred by renewed commitment to acknowledge and begin to dismantle



decades of racial injustices and explicitly affirm Black Lives Matter. This past year was hard. We lost loved ones to COVID-19 and its impact on our collective mind, body, and spirit. At the same time, we became stronger in our support for one another and more committed to solutions-oriented research at the nexus of the environment and human health. We hope to “see” many of you during our first seminar of the year featuring former Swetland Center Post-Doctoral Scholar, Dr. Elizabeth Benninger.

Happy New Year!



Darcy Freedman, PhD, MPH

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## Ohio COVID-19 Child Care Study Findings



The Ohio COVID-19 Child Care study, led by Swetland Center Director Dr. Freedman, took place from Aug. 15 to Nov. 20 and found that COVID-19 infection rates at child care programs have been low as a result of multiple factors including clear state guidelines and resources to support adherence, streamlined reporting of cases, and high compliance to follow guidelines by child care workers and families. Key recommendations based on the study findings:

- Maintain child care capacity to fully comply with COVID-19 mitigation strategies;
- Develop a supply chain for affordable personal protective equipment and cleaning materials, allowing child care programs to uphold rigorous hygiene and sanitizing procedures;
- Standardize communication about COVID-19 disseminated through child care programs;
- Expand workforce pipeline for child care staffing during the pandemic.

The Case Western Reserve study was funded by the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) and supported by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS). The study relied on a sample of child care facilities that mirrors a mix of urban, suburban and rural settings found across the country, offering insight into child care experiences nationally. To review a [data brief](#) with the full study findings or learn more about the team and research methods, please visit the Child Care Study [website](#).

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*Be sure to keep up with Swetland news through our online [News & Events](#) page!*

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## Events & Opportunities

### January Seminar: Conceptualizing Social Determinants of Neighborhood Health through a Youth Lens

January 26th | 9–10 am

[Register now](#) for our next Swetland Seminar featuring Elizabeth Benninger, Ph.D., who will discuss her work on the Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) case study with 14 African American youth in Cleveland, Ohio to argue that racial discrimination shapes the social determinants of health, which in turn, contributes towards disparities in child health outcomes across their life course. Presenter and event details can be found [here](#).

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### Call For Mentors: Support the Work of The Food Systems Change Fellowship

February 15th – July 31st, 2021

Swetland's [Food System Change Fellowship](#) will provide support for local leaders to develop and validate their ideas while growing partnerships essential for bringing an idea to life. Ideal fellows come to the “test kitchen” with passion and creativity for food systems change combined with openness to trial new ideas while getting feedback from others and meeting with their selected mentors.

Mentors are asked to meet formally

with their fellow at least three times during the six-month fellowship from February 15–July 31, 2021 and are invited to aid in the evaluation of the impact of the fellowship program. This mentorship



opportunity can be done virtually or in person (COVID-19 dependent). [Apply today](#) to be a mentor and support community engaged food system change!

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## Helpful Resources



The Lead Safe Cleveland Coalition is a public-private partnership formed to address the issue of lead poisoning in Cleveland. The Coalition is open to everyone and, today, is made up of more than 400 members, 120 organizations, state and local governments, and families impacted by lead. The Coalition launched its resource hotline for both residents and landlords in December 2020. Convening meetings and workshops are regularly held for Coalition members, residents and landlords to continue making systems and policy change to prevent lead poisoning from happening. Learn more about the Coalitions important and impactful work [here](#).

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*Have an opportunity you'd like us to feature in our next newsletter?*

*We are accepting content submissions! You can find the submission form [here](#).*

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## Welcome New Swetland Staff Member Brinda Athreya, PhD, MUP

Brinda joined the Swetland team in December and to get to know her more she has answered a few questions! To learn more about Brinda's background, education and projects she will be working on please head to our [website](#).

**Where are you from?** I am from the Southern part of India. A city called Mysore, famous as the cleanest city that houses a beautiful Palace, historically significant delicacies, silk fabric and less traffic pollution!

**What is your background in?** My background is in Civil Engineering, Geography, Urban Planning, Qualitative Research.

**What excites you about joining the Swetland Center?** People and Projects!

**What is your favorite outdoor space in Cleveland or a place you want to explore?** I would like to visit the shores of Lake Erie and Emerald Necklace parks



**What is a piece of advice you have been given or quote/statement that is significant to you?**


1) There was a time when I felt crippled with life like I couldn't go on anymore and a very beloved Professor quoted Mr. Obama: The future rewards those who press on. I don't have time to feel sorry for myself. I don't have time to complain. I am going to press on.

2) My dad used to quote this a lot for me from the book Siddhartha by Herman Hesse : I can think, I can wait, I can fast. These are the only things that are in my complete control!

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