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MARY ANN SWETLAND  
CENTER FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

# The Swetland Scoop

January 2024

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*Happy New Year  
from the Swetland Center!*



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## News & Announcements

## **Darcy Freedman, PhD, MPH**



Welcome to 2024, a year full of hope and potential to try something different! At the Swetland Center, we believe that doing things differently is key to achieving environmental health equity. Through our innovative research and community engagement, we are committed to dismantling structures of oppression that have long hindered environmental justice. We are not afraid to take risks in our science. In fact, pushing the boundaries of what is possible is at the core of our work. We believe that by challenging the status quo, we can accelerate progress towards a more just and sustainable future. As you embark on a new year, plant a seed for the possibilities that lie ahead. Happy New Year!

## **New Funding Awarded**

The Nourishing Neighborhoods Empowering Communities Study was awarded new funding (\$30K) from the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland to expand community leadership of the Nourishing Power Network and support dissemination of findings. This community action research project is testing ways to transform food systems by bridging community power with organizational power to expand food justice initiatives led by the community. Click [here](#) to learn more about the Nourishing Power Network and its multicomponent systems-change approach.

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## **Events & Opportunities**

### **WE ARE HIRING!**

#### **Program Manager for SNAP-Ed Staff (Research Associate)**

For the first time, the Swetland Center will extend our food systems and nutrition equity research within real-world practice by hiring community nutrition educators who will be working directly in community sites in Cuyahoga County to support nutrition education and community nutrition programming through the Ohio SNAP-Education (SNAP-Ed) program. As a first step in this effort, our center is pleased to share a position opening for a Program Manager for SNAP-Ed staff in Cuyahoga County who will work closely with OSU Extension staff and provide leadership in hiring, training, coaching, and supervising five

implementation of evidence-based policy, systems, and environmental interventions designed to promote community nutrition in diverse settings. For more information on the position, click [here](#).

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## Hot Off the Press

Chen S, Walt G, Aldrich A, McAlearney AS, Linas B, Amuchi B, Freedman D, Goddard-Eckrich D, Gibson E, Hartman J, Bosak J, Lunze K, Jones L, Christopher M, Salsberry P, Jackson RD, Back S, Drainoni M, Walker DM. A (2023) **Qualitative Study of Health Equity's Role in Community Coalition Development.** *Health Education & Behavior.* Available online [here](#).

Wentworth, C., Torres Arroya, M., Lembi, R.C., Feingold, B.J., Freedman, D., Gray, S., Hodbod, J., Jablonski, B.B.R., Janda-Thomte, K.M., Lemoine, P., Nielsen, A., Romeiko, X.X., Salvo, D., Olabisi, L.S., van den Berg., A.E., & Yamoah, O. (2024). **Navigating Community Engagement in Participatory Modeling of Food Systems.** *Environmental Science & Policy*, 152. Available online [here](#).

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## Swetland Spotlight

### Farewell to Maggie Switzer, MPH

We are grateful to Maggie Switzer for her exceptional data management support throughout the past year. Thank you for being an incredible asset to our team! We wish Maggie the very best as she begins her new role as the Colorado State University Extension Office's Farmers Market and Food Systems Coordinator in Fort Collins, Colorado. We are confident this new locale will provide space for Maggie to continue her adventures in the great outdoors!

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Dr. Karen Abbott (3 seat and Swetland Center Faculty Affiliate) and Maggie Switzer (7 seat) in the Western

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Reserve Rowing Association (WRRA) masters women's 8+ at the Head of the Cuyahoga Regatta in Cleveland. Karen and Maggie are competitive masters rowers with Cleveland's WRRA. Throughout 2023, they rowed in several regattas together, including the prestigious Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston, MA where they placed in the top 10 of competitors, and Cleveland's home regatta, Head of the Cuyahoga, where they both took gold medals in the women's masters 8+.



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