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**CASE WESTERN RESERVE  
UNIVERSITY**  
**Mary Ann Swetland Center  
for Environmental Health**

# The Swetland Scoop

**July 2025**

*Our mission is to accelerate pathways to vibrant and healthy environments through collaborative research, immersive training, and authentic community engagement.*

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## News & Announcements

Policy Opportunities Identified to Root and Grow Nutrition Zones



On Friday, June 6th, stakeholders from Greater Cleveland met at the Midtown Collaboration Center for the **Nutrition Zones Think Tank for Policy Action**, hosted by Nourishing Power Network. The group identified five policy ideas to advance Nutrition Zones, voted with their feet, and outlined actions for the next 90 days to advance these policies. Champions were identified for each policy idea. These community leaders, with support from Morgan Taggart at FARE | Food Access Raises Everyone, will engage partners to promote movement on the policy ideas. The group will reconvene in October 2025 for a status update on the proposed policy actions and recommendations to root and grow 10 Nutrition Zones in Greater Cleveland by 2030.



## Produce Path Prescription Program By the Numbers

From May-June, the Swetland Center leveraged our CDC-funded REACH project to partner with the Northeast Ohio Quality Improvement Hub's AHEAD Initiative, funded by the Ohio Department of Medicaid. Together, we trialed a produce prescription program that linked community outreach, farmers market educators, and SNAP-Ed to

Cuyahoga, Portage, and Summit counties.

- Number of participating primary care clinical sites - **13**
- Number of farmers market sites - **7**
- Number of outreach events conducted at clinical sites - **48**
- Number of patients enrolled in the Produce Prescription program - **431**
- Number and dollars of coupons distributed - **\$43,100** (\$100 per enrolled patient)

### What are patients saying about the Produce Path program?

*"I'm a diabetic, so my doctor encourages me to do more vegetables and fruit...I've never been to the farmers market ever, ever. I really needed [the program] financially. I didn't have the money to do [buy vegetables and fruits]. ...we found the one [farmers market] on Shaker Square. And it was nice weather, with a lot of vendors and we got most of the things that we wanted. It was just like shopping. And all the vendors accepted the coupons with no problem. They knew what the coupons were, too. I was just so excited that you know we had that amount to spend. I got Romaine lettuce, which I've never had. I got the other kind of lettuce which I've never had that she (the vendor) suggested to me...I've been making salads. It's helping me as far as nutritious value foods..I have been eating the salad everyday, everyday" [Black Female Patient]*

*"This is another \$100...it stretches my food stamp a lot more which got cut by more than half last year because the COVID extensions runoff. It is the difference between my being able to eat and my being able to eat well. I love it" [White Male Patient]*



Naomi Hillyer and Teela Patterson enrolling patients at AxxessPointe Barberton.



April Vince, Teela Patterson, and Lydia Andreadis enrolling patients at Signature Health Beachwood.





Jenny Fu speaking with Matty Wills from Z107.9 about the Produce Path app at the North Union Farmers Market at Shaker Square on June 21st.



Linea Webb speaking with Matty Wills from Z107.9 about the Produce Path app at the North Union Farmers Market at Shaker Square on June 21st.

## Announcing the Environmental Health (EH) Connector

The Swetland Center is excited to have launched a new initiative - the **Environmental Health (EH) Connector**. With support from the Sears-Swetland Family Foundation, the EH Connector seeks to be an agile resource with the goal of strengthening partnerships that support our vision for a world where environments are designed to promote holistic health for everyone. The primary goals of the EH Connector are to:

1. Deepen partnerships with key stakeholders—including faculty affiliates, the Swetland Center Advisory Council, MidTown Collaboration Center tenants, and community leaders—to advance shared environmental health priorities.
2. Amplify environmental health innovations in Greater Cleveland and beyond, fostering creative and effective solutions to pressing environmental challenges.
3. Provide targeted support for action-oriented research, enabling small but strategic investments that drive measurable impact in environmental health.

The EH Connector will hold its first "Fill Your Cup" networking event in September 2025

## Support Produce Perks Midwest



was established to increase affordable access to healthy food, support local farmers, and strengthen local economies. Since 2017, they've expanded to 44 counties in Ohio, including Cuyahoga County. Across 130+ farm stands, stores, and farmers markets, Produce Perks Midwest has connected nearly 30,000 families with extra food dollars, supporting \$17.6+ million in healthy food purchases within communities across Ohio.

Today, more than ever, their work to make fruits and vegetables accessible and affordable is critical to the health of people and communities everywhere. Access to affordable, healthy food makes all the difference.

Help Produce Perks Midwest celebrate 9 seasons of expanding food access. A gift now provides people with the dignity to choose fresh fruits and vegetables and strengthens local food economies.



The graphic features the ProducePERKS logo at the top left, which consists of a green leaf and a red apple. To the right of the logo, the word "Support" is written in a large, bold, green font, followed by "Produce Perks" in an even larger, bold, green font. Below this, there are five donation options, each in a colored box with a white circle containing the dollar amount. The options are: \$25 (green box) for "Meal kit delivery to a patient in the Produce Prescription program." with a green leaf icon; \$50 (blue box) for "Cooking tools like colanders, whisks, graters, and tongs for 7 families" with a blue whisk icon; \$100 (dark green box) for "9 monthly produce box delivery fees" with a green truck icon; \$250 (blue box) for "A community education event" with a blue calendar icon; and \$500 (red box) for "Onboarding a Produce Perks location" with a red location pin icon. At the bottom, the website "produceperks.org/donate" is written in a bold, green font.

**Support**  
**Produce Perks**

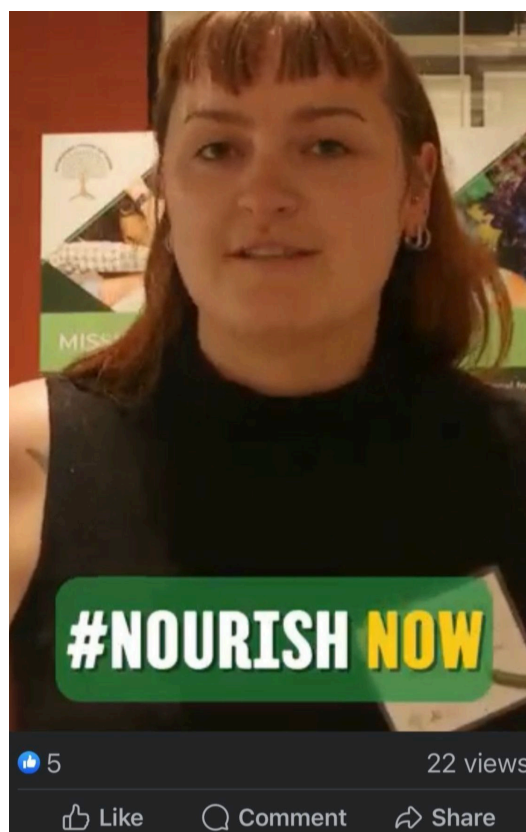
- \$25**  
Meal kit delivery to a patient in the Produce Prescription program.
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Cooking tools like colanders, whisks, graters, and tongs for 7 families
- \$100**  
9 monthly produce box delivery fees
- \$250**  
A community education event
- \$500**  
Onboarding a Produce Perks location

**produceperks.org/donate**

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Join the #NourishNow Campaign

sample posts coming from the campaign. **Click** on each image to view and share.



## Congratulations to our SNAP-Ed Team!

Congratulations to our newest SNAP-Ed "Navigating for Success" graduates - Megan Dzurec, Megan Milo, and Willie Swift! Members of CWRU's SNAP-Ed team completed a 16-week training in Columbus on best practices for evidence-based nutrition and physical activity education. We happily congratulate our SNAP-Ed team on achieving this important professional development milestone. Big congrats to Martinique Mims and Laylah Allen who received their Navigating for Success certificates at the annual SNAP-Ed Meeting early this spring.



*Willie Swift & Megan Milo*



*Martinique Mims & Laylah Allen*

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## Events & Opportunities



# CELEBRATE THE

## NOURISHING NEIGHBORHOODS EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES STUDY

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6TH,  
5:30PM - 8:00PM**

**SEARS THINK[BOX]  
CLEVELAND, OH**

Calling all grassroots leaders,  
organizations, academics and  
policy makers looking to  
transform the food system and  
support community wellbeing

### JOIN US TO

1. Engage with data about how power is moving in our local food system
2. Learn about key findings to transform outcomes within local food systems through the Nourishing Power Network
3. Dive deeper into stories about bridging community and organizational power to root and grow a local food system that works for all




**RSVP HERE**

*Congratulations*

## 2025 REACH Fellows

**Graduation Ceremony**  
**July 15, 2025**  
**6:00-8:30pm**  
@ Midtown Collaboration Center











RSVP here by July 7th!  
<https://tinyurl.com/REGGrad25>

**CCBH CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
Your Trusted Source For Public Health Information

**CATALYTIC CHANGE LINK**  
A Partnership for Change Control and Prevention

**CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY**  
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**REACH**  
Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health

 <b>Holly Davenport</b> That Brown Girl Spice	&	 <b>Kelli Littlejohn</b> Dove Legacy Health	&	 <b>Tim Lewis</b> Rid-All Green Partnership	&	 <b>Veronica Walton</b> Food Depot to Health
 <b>Beverly Cody</b> Wholistic Alchemy	&	 <b>Asya Aretskin-Hariton</b> MetroHealth	&	 <b>Brejona Whitlock</b> Collinwood Friends Garden	&	 <b>Kedon Newton</b> MetroHealth CWRU

Join us in celebrating the graduation of [the 2025 REACH Fellowship cohort](#)! The fellowship seeks to expand and sustain produce prescription programs that enhance food freedom, agency, and dignity in food traditions among communities at the highest risk or burden of chronic diseases.

The graduation ceremony will be an opportunity to meet the four Fellowship teams and **hear their pitch for a produce prescription program!** It will be held at the Midtown Collaboration Center beginning at 6 pm and will be live streamed. Click the button below to RSVP by July 7th.

**RSVP HERE**

# Produce Prescriptions in Cuyahoga County

\*You can also sign up for a free technical assistance session to help you start or improve your produce prescription program!

**August 5, 2025 | 12:00-1:30pm**  
**Virtual (Zoom)**

- Are you a farmer, nutrition educator, or other professional in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, who wants to partner with a produce prescription program?
- Are you a clinical professional in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, who wants to improve your produce prescription program or start a new one?

Register for this free workshop facilitated by Kim Hines (North American Food Systems Network) and Chris Mundorf (Better Health Partnership) to learn:

- PRx programs: why & what
- Featured speakers: lessons learned locally
- National overview: models & best practices
- Local expansion: increase & improve
- Local investment: needs & opportunities

\*TA sessions are limited to clinical sites that are able to write prescriptions. Must be completed by 9/1/25.



**Register here!**



<https://tinyurl.com/PRxAugust5>

## Questions?

Email us at [reach@case.edu](mailto:reach@case.edu)

This workshop is made possible with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention REACH grant.



**Register Here**

## Hot Off the Press

Swetland Voices in the News



*"An unexpected benefit is that being in a building that's not a Case building, I've become more aware of what is going on in Cleveland," Freedman said. "The more that we're there, the more the first floor feels like it is your living room. The space is open to anyone."*  
Freedman said.

## Check out our Latest Publications

### **Bold = Swetland Center Affiliates**

**Ogland-Hand, C., Schulte, J., Yamoah, O., Poppe, K., Ciesielski, T.H., Gee, R., Zubieta, A., & Freedman, D.A.** (2025). [Leveraging technology to engage SNAP consumers with children at farmers markets: Qualitative community-engaged approach to app development](#). *JMIR Formative Research*, Volume 9.

Chutipongtanate S, Kongsomros S, Cetinkaya H, Zhang X, Kuhnell D, Benefield D, Haffey WD, Wyder MA, Kwatra G, **Conrey SC**, Burrell AR, Langevin SM, Esfandiari L, Newburg DS, Greis KD, Staat MA, Morrow AL. [Prenatal SARS-CoV-2 Infection Alters Human Milk-Derived Extracellular Vesicles](#). *Cells*. 2025 Feb 15;14(4):284. doi: 10.3390/cells14040284. PMID: 39996756; PMCID: PMC11853888.

**Conrey, Shannon C.**, Laurie Nommsen-Rivers, Xuan He, Carolyn Slupsky, Abigail Galyon, Allison R. Burrell, Daniel C. Payne, Mary A. Staat, and Ardythe L. Morrow. [Human Milk Lead Levels in a Cohort of Midwestern Infants](#): Preliminary Results From the MOM2CHild Study." *Current Developments in Nutrition* 9 (2025).

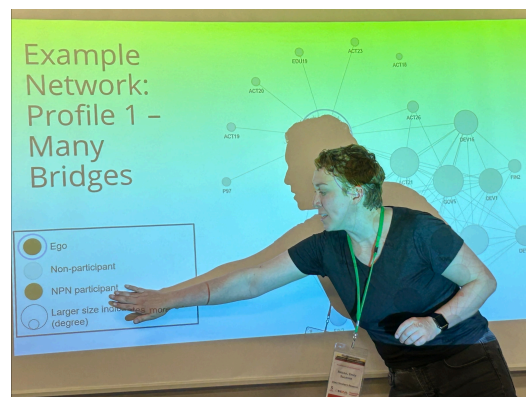
**Conrey, S. C.**, Solanki, N. R., Burrell, A. R., Payne, D. C., Staat, M. A., & Morrow, A. L. (2025). [Breastfeeding Duration and Exclusivity Associated With Decreased Healthcare Utilization in Children Under Two Years of Age](#). *Current Developments in Nutrition*, 9.

Zheyi Teoh, Claire M Midgley, **Shannon Conrey**, Allison Burrell, Brendon White, Claire P Mattison, Meredith L McMorrow, Elizabeth P Schlaudecker, Marissa Vawter-Lee, Ardythe L Morrow, Daniel C Payne, Mary Allen Staat, [Burden of disease and spectrum of illness from enterovirus-D68 infections in U.S. children 0-2 years of age from a longitudinal community-based cohort, 2017-2019](#), *Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society*, 2025, piaf057.

P. Balvanz, R.G. Olvera, M. Booty, J. McSwiggan, C. Damato-MacPherson, S. Ellison, A. Farmer, K. Klingler, A. Kuntz, N. Lewis, C.B. Oser, L. Sprague Martinez, S. Stitzer, H. Surratt, O. **Yamoah, A.** Berkshire, T. Carter, K. Campbell, S. Dynes, B. Gealy, F. Harris, B. Herrington, S. Matthews, D. Myers, C. Rapier, A. Shouse, S. Szelagowski, M. McGladrey. (2025). [A participatory photovoice investigation of community assets](#),

## Conference Highlights

Dr. Darcy Freedman and Dr. Emily Nelson presented a workshop and oral presentation at the International Network of [Social Network Analysis Conference](#) in Paris, France, June 2025. They shared findings on participatory social network mapping methods developed by Swetland Center partners and received feedback on preliminary analyses from the Nourishing Power Network data.



## Swetland Spotlight

### Meet the 2025-26 Daniel Lewis Ravin, MD Awardee

The Daniel Lewis Ravin, MD Award honors MD and PhD students currently enrolled in Case Western Reserve University, School of Medicine who are excelling in occupational or environmental health. Congratulations to **Anthony Orsino** on being selected for this award for the 2025-2026 academic year.



### Learn About our Awardee

My name is Anthony Orsino (he/him), and I am a fourth-year Epidemiology and Biostatistics Ph.D. student in the Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences. Since my first semester of undergraduate training in Public Health at The American University in Washington, D.C., I've known that public health is where I want to make a difference for the better. Through working hard and caring a lot about

health practice, particularly in the One Health paradigm.

### What are your plans for this award?

The generosity of this award allows me to pursue extramural training that I otherwise wouldn't be able to immerse myself in or enrich my Ph.D. curriculum with. For one, this award allows me to train at Duke University in social network analysis methods, something that is central to my dissertation work examining the response network of the 2023 East Palestine, Ohio train disaster. Additionally, I hope to train at UC Davis next summer as they do amazing work in the One Health sphere. This will provide me with hands-on, boots-on-the-ground experience in One Health work that I hope will inform my future science and practice. Lastly, this award will help me with sharing my dissertation work in public forums so that I may get feedback and make my findings accessible to all.

### Meet our 2025 Summer Research Scholar: Jenny Fu

Jenny Fu, a rising 4th year undergraduate at CWRU, is double majoring in biology and sociology. As a 2025 summer research scholar with the Swetland Center, funded by [CWRU's SOURCE program](#), she developed a project to trial the use of the Produce Path app among young adults and college-aged individuals in Cuyahoga County. Throughout the summer, Jenny is promoting the Produce Path app at different events near college campuses, gaining insights into the unique community nutrition needs of college-aged students.





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