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

The Swetland Scoop

March 2024

News & Announcements

Check out the Swetland Center's Five-Year Report!



As we reflect on the past five years, we are incredibly grateful to our partners, funders, and advisory councils, who have been instrumental in this journey. We invite you to download the full [Five-Year Report](#) to read more.

Welcome to our New SNAP-Ed Manager | | Brianna Williams, MPH



working closely with our partners from The Ohio State University SNAP-Ed Program. Brianna will oversee and manage hiring and supporting five new SNAP-Ed program staff who will offer community nutrition education and activities in Cuyahoga County. Brianna comes to the Swetland Center with five years of experience supervising dynamic teams in clinical settings.

New Funding from the Cleveland Clinic

The Nourishing Neighborhoods Empowering Communities Study was awarded new funding (\$200K) from the Cleveland Clinic to increase support for community-driven food justice initiatives focused on ending child hunger in Greater Cleveland. 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.

Members of the Nourishing Power Network Leadership Team (L-R: Dawn Glasco, Darcy Freedman, Shirley Bell) celebrate their new partnership with Dr. Tomislav Mihaljevic, CEO, President, and Morton L. Mandel CEO Chair of Cleveland Clinic.



Swetland Center to Partner on REACH Grant

The Swetland Center is thrilled to collaborate with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) on a five-year grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health \(REACH\) program](#). As one of the 50 REACH projects funded nationally, this initiative includes partners from CCBH, the Cuyahoga County Executive's Office, Bike Cleveland, and the City of Cleveland. The Swetland Center will principally focus on building local capacity to

Meet the Nourishing Power Network Advisory Council 2.0

Nourishing Power Advisory Council 2.0



Aja
Barrett



Shawn
Brown



Sherece
Brown



Dawn
Glasco



Shleby
Kaemmerer



Wyndi
Moore



Tiffani
Sutton-Taylor



Carol
White

The new cohort of advisory council members will begin in March 2024. These leaders are committed to testing ways to bridge community power with organizational power to expand food justice initiatives led by the community.

Engaging High Schoolers in a Public Health Challenge

The Swetland Center is collaborating with high school students from the Mastery School of Hawken for a project-based learning initiative. This unique opportunity is designed to provide students with insights into the public health sector through real-world applications. Five teams are tasked with devising forward-thinking strategies to help the Swetland Center prepare to implement SNAP-Ed programming throughout Cuyahoga County over the next year. Swetland team members supporting this work include Owusua Yamoah, PhD, Megan Paskey, MPH, MS, Brianna Williams, MPH, and Darcy Freedman, PhD, MPH.



Swetland Center Staff Updates

Congratulations to Linea Webb, MSW (left) and Emily Nelson, PhD, MPH (right) on their new roles in the Swetland Center. Linea will serve as the REACH Project Manager providing leadership to our partnerships focused on increasing support for produce prescription and produce incentive programming throughout Cuyahoga County. Emily will serve as a Data Scientist supporting 'all things data' within our Nourishing Power Network, HEALing Communities Study, REACH, and community nutrition projects.



Swetland Center Graduate Student Wins NSF Award

Regan Gee, a graduate research assistant in the Center, was awarded

funding from the National Science Foundation's Cultural Anthropology Program for her doctoral dissertation research: "Health, Wellness, and Indigenous Knowledge: A Community-Based Participatory Research Study". Regan is a doctoral student in the Department of Anthropology at CWRU. Congratulations, Regan!



Events and Opportunities

Swetland Center to Support a Public Meeting in East Palestine, OH



Join the Ohio/Pennsylvania University Research Consortium for a state of the science update. Together, we will:

- Explore the scope and limits of publicly available data collected after the train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio.
- Hear what we've learned about air, plant, and water exposures using data gathered after the train derailment.
- Summarize the health issues and symptoms reported by the community following the train derailment.
- Discuss public questions/concerns.

April 10th, 2024
6:00-7:30 PM

The Way Station, Inc.
109 W. Rebecca St.
East Palestine, OH

Open to the public.
Doors open at 5:45 PM.
Light refreshments will be available.

RSVP by visiting tinyurl.com/bdz23u6k
or scan the QR code.



Join Us for the April 16th Swetland Center Seminar

Social Enterprise, Food Justice, and Food Sovereignty: Strange Bedfellows or Systemic Supports?

There is a debate within the academic literature about whether one can address food system problems with market-based approaches while seeking food justice or food sovereignty. However, this debate is less relevant in practice. Hear more about how a team of researchers unpacked this tension through a systematic review focused on exploring the question: How do social enterprises interact with food justice and food

Date: April 16th, 2024

Time: 9:00-10:00am

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Presenters: Dr. Jill Clark (The Ohio State University) and Katie Merritt (CWRU)

[Register Here](#)

Community Nutrition Team Presents at National Meeting



Our team presented at the Association of SNAP Nutrition Education Administrators (ASSNA) Conference in Washington, DC in February 2024. Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr. Shannon Walker (Right), presented with our Ohio SNAP-Ed partner, Patrick Tegge (Left). The team presented on initial findings related to the development and pilot testing of the Produce Path app.

Hot Off the Press

Our Translational Products

The Swetland Center provided community-engaged research support over the past five years to the [HEALing Communities Study](#), an implementation science initiative to reduce opioid overdose deaths in Ohio, New York, Massachusetts and Kentucky. Two implementation tools were released by the study to support communities interested in implementing this collaborative approach to reduce overdose deaths.

- [Opioid-Overdose Reduction Continuum of Care Approach Practice Guide 2023](#)
- [Engaging Community Coalitions to Decrease Opioid Overdose Deaths Practice Guide 2023](#)

Our Publications

[parties the new grocery stores for multi-generational families with children?](#)
[Disparities in emergency food assistance reliance based on household composition.](#)
Journal of Hunger & Environmental Nutrition.

Merritt, K., Clark, J. K., & Freedman, D. A. (2024). [Social enterprise, food justice, and food sovereignty: Strange bedfellows or systemic supports?](#) *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 13(2).

Swetland Spotlight

Farewell to Rachael Sommer, MSSA, LISW

We are appreciative of the transformative work Rachael Sommer accomplished as the Senior Director of Operations and Partnerships at the Swetland Center over the past five years. Her role as the "Minister of Fun" brought a joyful energy to our team, and her leadership in the Center's internal and external operations has been instrumental. Of her many remarkable actions, we are particularly thankful for her spearheading the Center's [Racial Equity and Community Engagement Plan](#). This initiative has been a significant step in deepening our dedication to racial equity across all aspects of the Center's work. Though we will miss her passionate commitment to our mission, we look forward to future opportunities to collaborate with Rachael.



Rachael Sommer, seen here on the far left with the Swetland Team (her daughter, Maddie, is on the far right), at the inaugural Swetland Center staff retreat in 2019.

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