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

# The Swetland Scoop

November 2024

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## News & Announcements

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Most environmental health solutions are policy prescriptions. Take time to go out and vote on November 5th! All policy is health policy.

## Meet our new staff!



### **Center Assistant - Laura Allen**

Laura Allen became a part of the Swetland Center team in October. She will be actively involved in supporting the administrative and organizational components of the programs and initiatives within the Center. Laura brings a rich background in administrative assistance within legal and health care teams.

**Fun Fact:** Laura enjoys acting and has been in several films and commercials. She loves collecting antiques, nature, animals, and is interested in ancient archaeology and history.



### **Graduate Research Assistant - Ryelie Barnes**

Ryelie joined us in early October bringing a diverse research background from her time in biomedical and anthropological research at The Ohio State University. Ryelie will be assisting in implementing several components of the Community Engaged Research Module of the CTSC of Northern Ohio.

**Fun Facts:** Ryelie is an avid lover of concerts, hiking, tattoos, and coffee shops. Ryelie is also a fan of all things cozy; reading, baking, crocheting, and spending time with her cat, Cullen.

# We Are Hiring!

**Please help us spread the word!**

We are hiring **3** SNAP-Education Program Assistants to conduct nutrition education classes and programming throughout Cuyahoga County to SNAP-

Program Assistants will provide direct nutrition and physical activity educational programming (e.g., teaching standardized classes) and Policy, Systems, and Environmental (PSE) interventions (e.g. school gardens, choice food pantries, promoting SNAP at farmers markets) with local, community-based partners in areas of high food insecurity throughout Cuyahoga County. The educational programming and PSE interventions will serve SNAP-eligible individuals of various demographics in a variety of community settings and will use USDA approved, standardized curriculum and evidence-based PSE approaches to improve access to nutritious food and physical activity opportunities. Familiarity teaching in group settings is essential. Experience teaching adult audiences and Spanish language are preferred but not required. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)

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# CWRU SNAP-Ed Program

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Education Program (**SNAP-Ed**) strives to help people make nutritious food choices and be active on a limited budget. It is funded by the USDA and operates in all 50 states, DC, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.

## Who is eligible for SNAP-Ed?

- People with low income currently receiving SNAP or qualify for SNAP
- People receiving other federal benefits, such as Medicaid or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.
- Communities where >50% of the population have income at 200% or below the federal poverty line.

## What Does SNAP-Ed Programming Look Like?

SNAP-Ed offers a variety of interactive activities, including nutrition education and physical activity classes, social marketing campaigns, and efforts to improve community policies and systems. Key features of our direct education approach:

- Free programming, including all materials.
- Lessons that are 45-60 minutes for adults, 30 minutes for youth.
- A series of 3+ lessons to promote learning and behavior change.
- Lessons introduce MyPlate and explore components of a nutritious diet, including fruits and vegetables, whole grains, lean protein, and dairy.
- Additional topics: stretching family food dollars, shopping/cooking to promote health, planning meals at home, cooking nutritious meals for one, and steps to be active.

**Contact our team at [ijs34@case.edu](mailto:ijs34@case.edu) to learn more!**

*This material was funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - SNAP. CWRU's SNAP-Ed program is in partnership with The Ohio State University. CWRU is an equal opportunity provider.*



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OHIO  
SNAP-ED

## Events & Opportunities

**Don't miss our last seminar of 2024!**



Seminar Series Presents:

## Exploring Social Capital Within Coalitions & Communities: Our Approach, Results, and Lessons from Coalitions Focused on Reducing Opioid Fatalities in Ohio

**November 19, 2024 | 9:00 AM | Virtual**



**Emily Nelson, MPH, PhD**  
*Research Associate- Data  
Infrastructure  
Swetland Center, CWRU*



**Owusua Yamoah, PhD,  
MA**  
*Research Scientist  
Swetland Center, CWRU*



**Sara Roberts, MSSA, LISW**  
*Senior Program Director  
Swetland Center, CWRU*

### Exploring Social Capital Within Coalitions & Communities: Our Approach, Results, and Lessons from Coalitions Focused on Reducing Opioid Fatalities in Ohio

Presented by Swetland Center staff: Emily Nelson, Owusua Yamoah, & Sara Roberts

- Tuesday, November 19th
- 9:00-10:00am
- Virtual

Community coalitions are an effective tool for mobilizing response strategies to address public health issues affecting local communities. The effectiveness of these coalitions is, however, highly dependent on the social capital of coalition members (i.e., the power and resources embedded within) compared to the social capital of people who are not engaged. This balance of social capital within and outside of the coalition has the potential to influence the pace and efficiency of community coalitions as they seek to influence changes for public health benefit. We develop a measurement approach to examine how social capital can be measured within nine counties in Ohio implementing the Communities That Care (CTH) intervention. Our presentation will describe how we used ego-centric network maps to systematically capture perceptions of social capital influencing the pace, efficiency, and equity of coalitions and the broader

community context. Next, we will examine data across the nine counties to explore variability in perceptions of social capital accessible to increase adoption of EBPs to reduce opioid overdose fatalities. We will share insights into how results from this process can inform pace, efficiency, and equity within coalitions focused on reducing opioid fatalities locally through implementation of evidence-based interventions.

[Register HERE](#)

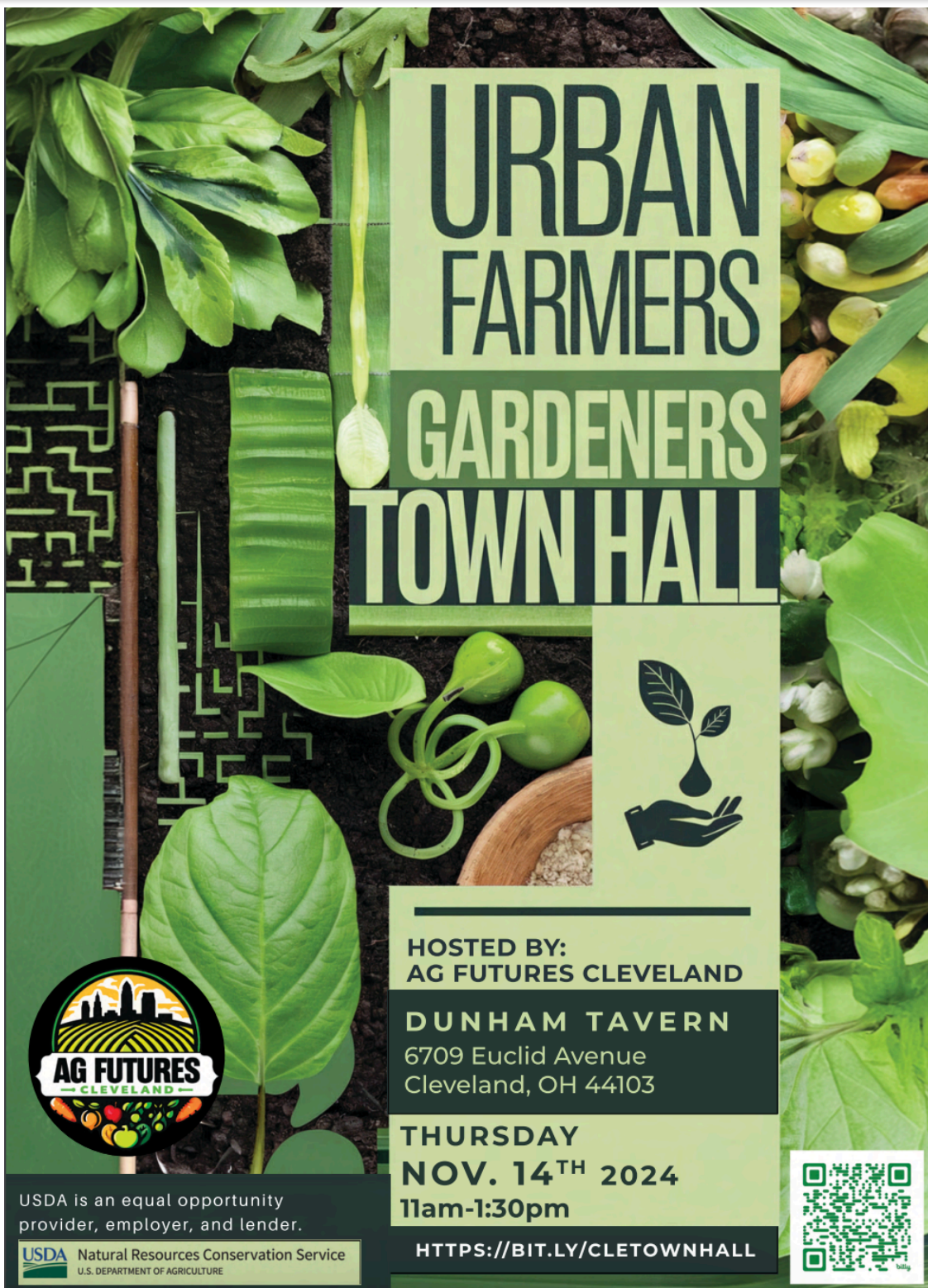
## Join the next Nourishing Power Network Networking Event




The Nourishing Power Network is hosting a “party” – a gathering focused on rest and rejuvenation for grassroots leaders in the food justice space. We will gather from 10am to 1pm on **Friday, December 6th at Trinity Commons** (2230 Euclid Ave. Cleveland, OH 44115). We will have light refreshments and networking time followed by breakout rooms where attendees will be able to experience the different gifts and talents present within the Nourishing Power Network related to **rest, relaxation, and rejuvenation**.

[RSVP HERE](#)





# URBAN FARMERS GARDENERS TOWN HALL




**HOSTED BY:**  
**AG FUTURES CLEVELAND**


**DUNHAM TAVERN**  
6709 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44103


**THURSDAY**  
**NOV. 14<sup>TH</sup> 2024**  
**11am-1:30pm**

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/CLETOWNHALL](https://bit.ly/cletownhall)



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 **USDA** Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



**When:** Thursday, November 14 · 11 am - 1:30 pm EST

**Where:** Dunham Tavern Museum & Gardens; 6709 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44103

On behalf of AG Futures Cleveland, you are formally invited to a Town Hall



to connect with other growers and learn about various resources available to help us advance our gardens, projects and farms. According to the USDA, there are over 440 active registered farms in Cuyahoga County. That's a whole lot of agriculture in our region! Let's connect, learn and grow together.

AG Futures Cleveland is a collaborative of urban farmers aimed at ensuring the sustainable future of agriculture in Ohio. We focus on educating fellow and future farmers on sustainable agricultural practices by sharing our knowledge and farming techniques through workshops, tours and mentoring opportunities to build a community of farmers that will shape the future of agriculture for generations to come.

[Register Here](#)

## Dissemination in Action



Swetland Center staff and Nourishing Power Network members attended the Ohio Food Policy Network Summit in Columbus. L-R: *Tiffani Sutton-Taylor, Megan Paskey, Linea Webb, Anvitha Ravipati, Ivory Simms, and Ridwan Lawal.*

## Tom O'Brien, MSSA Director, Neighborhood Connections



The Sweetland Center has had the pleasure of partnering with Tom O'Brien as a co-lead of the Nourishing Neighborhoods Empowering Communities Study (aka Nourishing Power Network). This role has provided a glimpse into the trustworthiness of Tom as a leader in Greater Cleveland who centers the voice and power of everyday people to lead the change they are seeking. When challenges arise during this study, Tom is the person our partners request to be a facilitator to navigate tensions as we seek resolution. When we are looking for creative ways to engage community stakeholders, Tom will offer suggestions and connect us with community



members who are innovating community engagement. If we need support to move something forward, Tom will step up to make things happen. He is selfless and supportive. He offers kindness that lets you know that you matter while also shepherding a group to a transformative space. We are grateful for the chance to partner with and learn from such a generous leader, pictured here with Dawn Glasco, Co-Investigator of the study.

## Anvitha Ravipati, 2024 Flora Awardee



Congratulations to Anvitha Ravipati, Graduate Research Assistant at the Swetland Center! Anvitha was awarded the 2024 Graduate Student Flora Award on October 24th. The Flora Award represents Flora Stone Mather's spirit of kindness, generosity and advancement of women's education. Learn more about the 2024 Flora Award winners [here](#).

*L-R: Linea Webb, Anvitha Ravipati, Anvitha's classmate and her daughter.*



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