



CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY
Mary Ann Swetland Center
for Environmental Health

The Swetland Scoop

July 2026

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

Cultivating Environmental Health Change Makers

The future of environmental health depends on the people we invest in today.

New Daniel Lewis Ravin, MD Awardee

The Swetland Center is proud to announce **Miranda Gabriel** as the 2026-2027 Daniel Lewis Ravin, MD Awardee! Miranda is a student at the School of Medicine with interests in how toxic environmental exposures affect mental and behavior health outcomes. Miranda's work at the Swetland Center will be advised by **Dr. Karen Mulloy**.



Engaging the Cleveland Humanities Collaborative

Dr. Owusua Yamoah and **Dr. Ivory Simms** had the opportunity to engage with summer fellows in The Cleveland Humanities Collaborative by raising awareness around community engaged research methods and innovations. The Collaborative is a partnership between CWRU, Cuyahoga Community College,



Community Food Access Summer Interns

Under the leadership of **Dr. Darcy Freedman**, the Swetland Center is hosting a summer internship to support the work of the **Cuyahoga County Hunger Response Team**. The goals of this applied learning experience are to:

- Educate Cuyahoga County food retailers on new federal SNAP eligibility and work requirements under House Resolution 1 (HR 1) passed by Congress in July 2025.
- Gather qualitative feedback on expected revenue impacts of these changes to identify ways the County can support local small businesses and ensure access to healthy foods.

From June-July 2026, the interns will be visiting about 50 grocery retailers in Cuyahoga County and 10 food pantries to integrate partner feedback into recommendations for the Hunger Response Team to consider.



Vennila Ramasubramanian is a rising second year doctoral student in the Department of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences at CWRU. She is conducting a research rotation with the Swetland Center gaining hands on experience in community-based and action oriented environmental health research.



Annabel Bertoni is a rising senior at John Carroll University majoring in Data Science with minors in Peace, Justice, and Human Rights. She is exploring ways to integrate computer science with her passion for social justice through field based research with the Swetland Center.

Congratulations to Dr. Shrestha

Dr. Jugnu Shrestha completed her Swetland Center internship conducted in tandem with her Family Medicine / Preventive Medicine Combined Residency Program (Class of 2026) at University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center. Dr. Shrestha provided leadership to the center's produce



prescription work. She will begin a full-time family medicine position at the Cleveland Clinic.

Celebrating our Graduates

Congratulations to three long-time Swetland Center graduate research assistants who graduated from CWRU in May 2026.

- Jillian Schulte, PhD, MPH, Medical Anthropology
- Regan Gee, PhD, Medical Anthropology
- Cathy Charles, MD, Medicine



News & Announcements

Launching the Healthy Choices Project

A rapid response initiative to support counties throughout Ohio seeking to expand healthy eating and active living opportunities for SNAP and SNAP eligible populations in the state. This work is supported by a short-term grant from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

Project 1. Produce Prescription (PRx) Infrastructure Enhancement (PIE)

Seeks to create efficiencies for SNAP consumers receiving PRx from their health care providers through technology-based solutions using the Produce Path app.

Project 2: Healthy Choices Mini Grants

Provides one-time investments to expand healthy eating and active living strategies serving SNAP and SNAP eligible populations in Ohio. Learn more about the Mini Grant program by clicking [HERE](#).

Attend Produce Prescription Community of Practice

The Community of Practice is an interactive space for individuals in Cuyahoga County working on produce prescription (PRx) programs to:

- Collaborate
- Share lessons & resources

- Troubleshoot issues
- Brainstorm solutions

Participants decide what to discuss and facilitators Michael Walton and Shane Benton are there as guides. The next session is on **Tuesday, July 21st, from 4-5 PM** (virtual).

[Sign up here](#)

Get Support from a PRx Coach

Produce prescription (PRx) coaching sessions help you develop, fund, implement, and evaluate PRx programs. We welcome any organization in Cuyahoga County interested in starting a new or expanding an existing PRx program. It doesn't matter what stage you're in! Our team will meet you where you are, and provide guidance and resources based on your specific needs.

[Request a coaching session](#)

Technical Assistance: Produce Prescriptions

Have questions about produce prescription programs?
Need feedback on your plan?

Regardless of what stage you are in, our team will meet you where you are and provide guidance and resources based on your needs. We welcome any organization in Cuyahoga County that is interested in starting a new program or expanding an existing program.

Meet the Coaches:



Michael Walton
Catalytic Change Link
PRx Coach



Kim Hines
North American Food
Systems Network
Funding/Sustainability TA



Shane Benton
Rural Action
PRx Coach



Owusua Yamoah
Swetland Center, CWRU
Evaluation TA

[Sign up here](#)

tinyurl.com/PRxTA



All TA sessions must be completed by 8/1/26.

Questions?

Email us at reach@case.edu



Made possible with
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for Disease Control and
Prevention REACH grant.



Updates on Nourishing Power Network

Since October 2025, the Nourishing Power Network (NPN) transitioned from its community action research phase into a community embedded leadership model. **Dawn Glasco, Executive Director of Dawn Visions, LLC**, was selected by NPN partners to serve as its Project Director. Check out the latest updates of NPN. You can learn more by contacting Dawn at nourishingpowernetwork@gmail.com.



NPN is advancing its goal to have a garden in every school through its recent convening at CMSD's Andrew J. Rickoff Elementary School where teachers, students, parents, and community volunteers united to prepare the school garden for planting. **Ronnie Trey Williams** (pictured in the middle), NPN fellowship graduate and current member of the NPN Leadership Team, supported partners at this community building event.



In June 2026, NPN co-hosted a Growing Community Together Event with Food is Medicine Mobile to to advance nutrition access, local food systems, and community wellness through collaboration. The event included fresh produce access, nutrition education, food demonstrations, and preventive health and wellness, and opportunities for community building. **Cheryl and Vernon Clements** (picture in back), NPN Fellowship graduate, were key partners at the event.

Support the Neighbors Community Farm

Nourishing Power Fellowship Graduate, Danie White, is turning her vision for food justice into action through the Neighbors Community Farm. This community-led initiative seeks to revitalize the Outhwaite garden space into a fully functioning mini farm operated by Central residents. The project strengthens food access by supplying produce to the Central Kinsman Farm Stop Co-Op while rebuilding consistent community engagement on-site. The farm serves as a triple-impact space—producing food, cultivating workforce and volunteer pathways, and creating room for community healing through hands-on learning and shared stewardship.

NEIGHBORS COMMUNITY FARM

Hosted in Outhwaite Homes

Community-Rooted Food Production • Workforce Development • Healing Through Growing

Project Overview

Neighbors Community Farm is a community-led initiative to revitalize the Outhwaite garden space into a fully functioning mini farm operated by Central residents. The project strengthens food access by supplying produce to the Central Kinsman Farm Stop Co-Op while rebuilding consistent community engagement on-site. The farm serves as a triple-impact space—producing food, cultivating workforce and volunteer pathways, and creating room for community healing through hands-on learning and shared stewardship.

Why This Matters for Outhwaite

The Outhwaite Community Garden has strong potential but has not been fully activated in recent years. Neighbors Community Farm can fill that gap with structure, leadership, and a resident-centered approach. The revitalization of this site supports the broader Central neighborhood vision for healthy, safe, and engaged communities. This partnership will:

- Bring consistent, positive activity to the garden
- Strengthen resident engagement and ownership
- Create a safe, well-maintained public space
- Offer youth job training and skill development
- Support resident well-being through access to fresh, local produce
- Reinforce Outhwaite's commitment to community-centered revitalization

This is an opportunity to reintroduce pride, safety, and purpose to a key neighborhood space.

Community Engagement Plan

- Monthly volunteer workdays for residents and families
- Youth-led gardening projects and training sessions
- Workshops on gardening, culinary skills, and sustainability
- Produce-sharing and seasonal harvest events
- Resident co-planning and decision-making opportunities
- Y.O.U. Summer Worksite in 2027

Resident-led and youth-centered, and built for long-term sustainability.

Project Goals & Community Impact

- Reactivate the Outhwaite Community Garden through consistent programming
- Provide produce for Outhwaite families, local programs, and the Farm Stop Co-Op
- Create hands-on training and employment pathways for youth
- Offer inclusive skill-building opportunities for adults with diverse abilities
- Improve safety through increased presence, structure, and stewardship
- Build community pride and intergenerational connection

How You Can Support

We are currently seeking:

- Financial support for garden restoration and farm site development (raised beds, soil, tools)
- Volunteers for community workdays, garden maintenance, and seasonal projects
- Community partners (schools, organizations and local businesses)
- In-kind donations such as lumber, compost, seeds, and garden supplies

What your support makes possible:

- \$250 supports seasonal seeds and starter plants
- \$500 helps restore and prepare raised beds
- Volunteer groups help transform underutilized space into active food-producing land

Your investment directly activates this site for the current growing season—transforming an underutilized garden into a productive, community-supported farm.

Project Lead

Danie White is a community grower, educator, and Nourishing Power Fellow dedicated to expanding food justice and workforce opportunities in Central. She founded Neighbors Community Farm to create inclusive training pathways for youth, adults with disabilities, and community members seeking re-entry support. Danie has led multiple urban agriculture and education programs across Cleveland and also leads My Sistas Keeper EduApiaries, an initiative uplifting local beekeepers through community storytelling.

Let's Connect!

Email: mustardseedworkx@gmail.com
Phone: 216-313-4136

Hot off the Press

Check out our Latest Presentations & Publications

Swetland Center Faculty, Staff, and/or Trainees are in Bold.

Conrey, S, DaCosta, C, Fayad, D, Epperson, M, Burrell, A, Mattison, C, Burke, R, Baker, J, Thornburg, N, Staat, M, Morrow, A, Payne, A (2026, June 24) Transplacental transfer of IgG antibodies is variable across viral pathogens [Poster abstract]. 2026 Society for Epidemiological Research Annual Meeting, Phoenix, AZ, United States.

Freedman, D.A., Hartman, H.E., **Nelson, E.S.**, & Pearman, A. (2026). **Evaluating Confidence in Translational Science Principles to Guide Workforce Development**. Journal of Clinical and Translational Science.

Swetland Spotlight

Swetland Faculty Affiliate Promoted

Swetland Faculty Affiliate **Dr. Nicole Burt** has been promoted to Senior Director of Curatorial and Research Affairs at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. In this role, Dr. Burt will lead all science-based research and institutional initiatives at the Museum, guiding the organization's curatorial vision and strategic direction in both the Research and Natural Areas divisions. Dr. Burt will work to deepen the impact of Museum research programs and enhance collection stewardship, collaborating across the organization to promote excellence and innovation in natural history scholarship.



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