

**Campus Kitchen**  
at **University of Detroit Mercy**

**2017**  
**Annual Report**



Developing compassionate and just **student leaders** who  
engage our **community** in promoting **food security**.

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# Letter from Tim Hipskind, SJ

## Director of Service Learning

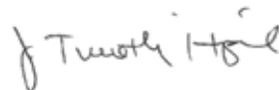
Did you notice it? Many people did. Between 2016 and 2017, the Campus Kitchen at Detroit Mercy (CK) got a lot of positive feedback telling us what we had already suspected. Namely, we had reached a new level in our ability to develop young leaders and collaborate with community partners to increase food security in our community. First was the generous response from you, our donors. Many of you mentioned the difference you noticed, especially in what we reported in our email newsletters and annual report. Next was the flood of highly qualified applicants for the position of Staff Coordinator. Jillian Stewart left Campus Kitchen to pursue a new opportunity. I am thankful to Jillian for building Campus Kitchen into a vital organization that attracted many applicants. At the top of the candidate list was Clara Gamalski, whom I am happy to introduce as the new CK Staff Coordinator.

With a Master's degree in Food Studies, Clara is not only affirming the framework that we established for the CK mission, but she is also helping us understand each piece of it in much greater depth. This report is organized around the four points of that mission framework: developing student leaders, addressing food insecurity, engaging our community, and maintaining a sustainable non-profit organization. In it, you can already find evidence of how Clara's training allows students to achieve a more nuanced understanding of the food system. CK student leaders want not only to address immediate food insecurity needs in Detroit but also to seek long-term solutions. In addition to helping us understand these issues

better, Clara's position as Institutional Food Sector Representative on the Detroit Food Policy Council gives student leaders access to the latest conversations regarding food systems in Detroit and facilitates additional opportunities for partnerships.

The following pages provide a lot to celebrate about CK in 2017. We almost doubled the size of the student leadership team and expanded all of our operations. The growth of our leadership team offers excellent prospects for 2018. We have already begun to strategize about how to use this extra energy. We are especially excited about our plans to facilitate new community engagement opportunities and educational partnerships including a "cooking and conversations" program with residents of Martin Park and an urban agriculture education series.

Thank you to all of you who have made this possible, especially the Ford Motor Company Fund. I hope you share my joy over what we have done in 2017 and my excitement to see what we will accomplish this year.



Tim Hipskind, S.J.

# About Us

## Mission & Vision

The University of Detroit Mercy Campus Kitchen is an affiliate of the Campus Kitchens Project (CKP), a national leader in community service for students and the future of hunger relief. CKP is empowering the next generation of leaders to implement innovative models for combating hunger and developing sustainable food systems. Campus Kitchen at Detroit Mercy (CK) is an organization working to develop compassionate and just student leaders who engage our community in promoting food security.

Forty percent of food is wasted in the US each year, yet one in five residents of Wayne County is food insecure. Campus Kitchen addresses hunger and food waste through partnerships with local businesses and nonprofits. At Detroit Mercy, CK student leaders develop programs aimed at reducing wasted food, increasing access to healthy food, supporting community gardens, and promoting education about nutrition, food access, and policy. We are one of the 60+ CKP affiliate chapters in the United States and the only Campus Kitchen in Michigan.



"We can't cure world hunger, but we definitely can make an impact in our surrounding area. We make a difference where we can."

-Melba Dearing,  
Outreach Coordinator

In 2017,



23 student leaders...



# Empowering Students

as leaders through service

Campus Kitchen remains one of the most prominent service organizations at Detroit Mercy. In 2017, we engaged 280+ students in our programs. We coordinated 800+ hours of volunteer shifts for over 160 students in partnership with local food access organizations including Forgotten Harvest, Gleaners, Project Healthy Community, MoFlo Garden, and Keep Growing Detroit. We also collaborated with community organizations to coordinate volunteer opportunities for large groups during two university-wide community service days.

Many of these service shifts include time for reflection and critical thought about the structures and processes that create a need for service. These exercises encourage students to consider how to become better servant-leaders in Detroit and as global citizens.

To help students cultivate their skills as servant-leaders, Campus Kitchen launched a formal leadership development program. Following research conducted in partnership

“Many issues related to social justice and ethics can feel like abstract issues that do not impact me directly. The experiences gained through engaging the community are very helpful in humanizing seemingly abstract topics, such as food justice, so I can better understand who is impacted, why solving these issues is important, and what role I can play in addressing them.”

-Patrick Masterson,  
Operations Coordinator



After a day of service in Martin Park, a group of students discusses food access, equitable development, and public transportation with members of the Princeton Street Block Club.

with the Career Education Center and Industrial-Organizational Psychology graduate students, Campus Kitchen developed modules that cultivate specific leadership competencies that reflect Detroit Mercy’s values and prepare them for the local job market. In 2017, we piloted five modules: communication, time management, project management, financial record-keeping, and community development in northwest Detroit.

Campus Kitchen provides a vital opportunity for students to apply what they learn in class to a real non-profit working environment. In addition to our formal leadership development opportunities, we engaged 23 members of the leadership team in the day-to-day operations of running a real non-profit organization, 100+ students in awareness activities about food waste and hunger, and 150+ students in fundraising activities.

## Working towards

# Community Food Security

### What is Community Food Security?

The condition in which all members of a community have access, in close proximity, to adequate amounts of nutritious, culturally appropriate food at all times from sources that are environmentally sound and just.

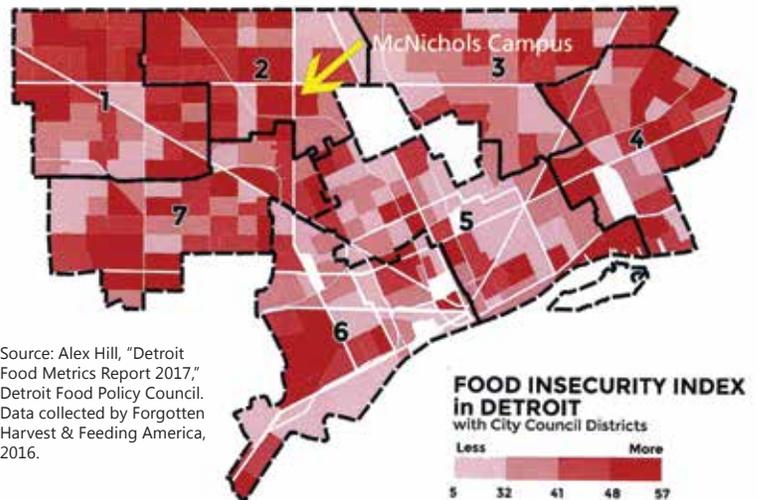
-Detroit Food Policy Council

Forty-eight percent of households in the city of Detroit are food insecure. In some neighborhoods surrounding the McNichols Campus, the rates of household food insecurity are higher than the city average. In Detroit, household food insecurity correlates with the members of a household's income levels, parenting statuses, abilities to secure stable and affordable housing, access to personal or public transportation, and educational attainment. Campus Kitchen recognizes that the project of creating a food secure community involves more than providing emergency food to hungry people. We are helping non-profit organizations in northwest Detroit build their capacity to address the causes and consequences of food insecurity.

Importantly, food insecurity has significant consequences on health. Detroit has some of the nation's highest rates of chronic illness like obesity, heart disease, and diabetes. Campus Kitchen works with community partners who are committed to doing more than alleviating hunger. We support programs that increase the ability of

households to obtain affordable, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food. In 2017, over half of the food we recovered and delivered was fresh produce. Our initiatives that focus on increasing healthy food access include:

- Weekly deliveries of recovered produce to Lakeridge Village, a transitional housing facility that provides social services to clients referred by the Detroit-Wayne Community Mental Health Authority, where CK also maintains a garden.
- Door-to-door deliveries of produce for senior citizens in Martin Park, in partnership with Princeton Street Block Club.
- Volunteer coordination for MoFlo Garden in Fitzgerald and Forgotten Harvest Mobile Pantry Programs at Lakeridge Village and Project Healthy Community.



### On-Campus Food Insecurity

In partnership with the Student Social Work Association, Campus Kitchen has conducted an assessment of food insecurity among Detroit Mercy students on the McNichols Campus. A report on the results is forthcoming.

# Engaging Communities

## around the McNichols Campus

At Campus Kitchen, community engagement has always been a priority. Representing the University in building mutual relationships with our neighbors is essential to our mission. In 2017, we strengthened our existing outreach operations and built relationships with new organizations.

This year, CK partnered with the Princeton Street Block Club to launch a door-to-door produce delivery program for senior citizen in the Martin Park neighborhood. By June, we had secured enough fresh food and volunteers to offer weekly drop-offs. These deliveries are, by far, Campus Kitchen's most popular service opportunity. At times, we've had more volunteers than seats in our Ford Transit vehicle. The demand for these shifts results from the revealing and heart-warming conversations between students and Princeton Street residents, facilitated by Block Club founder and CK Advisory Team Member Denise Kennedy. Students want to come back to Princeton Street to check-in with their neighbors.

"One of the best experiences that I've had with Campus Kitchen is Friday deliveries on Princeton Street. I like to stop and chat with the people living in the neighborhood surrounding the University. Delivering the fresh produce is nice, but connecting with the residents of Princeton Street is the best!"

-Shannon Moore, CK Leader



Denise Kennedy (left) joins Shannon and her classmates deliveries.



CK leader Tulsi Patel prepares healthy snacks for kids.

Additional community engagement programs and partnerships at CK include:

- The community meals and conversations program at Lakeridge Village.
- Providing food for San Juan Block Club's Story-Time program, a summer reading enrichment program for children in Fitzgerald.
- Market research for Live6 Alliance's Market on the Ave, a community market and business incubator for farmers, food producers, and entrepreneurs.
- A social barbecue for student leaders, organizational partners, and community members at MoFlo Community Garden in Fitzgerald.

# Practicing Sustainability

as an organization and a city

## Expenses versus Value Added

### 2017 Budget Highlights

<b>\$490</b> cost of food to supplement programs	<b>\$14,152</b> estimated value of recovered food
<b>\$407</b> cost of recruitment incentives and volunteer appreciation	<b>\$31,599</b> estimated economic impact of volunteers
<b>\$3,423</b> wages paid to student personnel	<b>\$9,423</b> tuition assistance for student staff
<b>\$1,295</b> cost of professional development opportunities (e.g. travel to conferences)	<b>\$1,800</b> estimated value of pro-bono services provided to partner organizations

The viability of our organization depends on our continued financial and social sustainability, meaning that fundraising, marketing, and recruitment of new students are some of our top priorities. In 2017, we grew our leadership team to 23 members. We also collaborated and networked with other on-campus organizations to increase awareness about CK, including University Ministries and Titan Women's Basketball.

What's more, we contribute to the environmental sustainability of Detroit by diverting over 12,000 pounds of food from the waste stream this year. We built a partnership with Detroit Mercy's new dining services provider, Metz, and doubled the frequency of our pick-ups from Western Market.

Your continued support, allied with our sustainable practices, allows us to charge into the new year with stable finances and a reliable network of student leaders. In addition to expanding our existing programs in 2018, Campus Kitchen student leaders will:

- Pilot leadership development modules in teamwork, fundraising, and community-engaged learning.
- Take advantage of professional development opportunities by attending local and national conferences about hunger and food waste.
- Offer nutrition education lessons in neighborhood elementary schools.
- Sponsor a series of workshops on urban agriculture in Detroit.
- Increase the poundage of food we recover by cultivating additional strategic partnerships with businesses and nonprofits.

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# To our partners and donors, Thank you for your support.

The Ford Motor Company Fund offers critical funding for Campus Kitchen at Detroit Mercy's programs. Through a partnership with Ford and United Way of Southeastern Michigan, Campus Kitchen has access to a Mobile Food Pantry. This vehicle allows us to recover food and deliver it to our community partners.

## Individual Donors

Kristen Abraham  
Charles Angell  
Maureen Anthony  
Mary Balcer  
Rita Barrios  
Caren Bendes  
Amy Blackwell  
Deanna Blevins  
Tina Cardamone  
Dennis Carlesso  
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Catherine Moore  
Drew Peters

Phyllis Peters Look  
Claudia Rowland  
Ashley Stewart  
Students of BUS1600  
Cheryl Styczynski

## Nonprofit & Corporate Donors

Attack Hunger  
Aqua Advantage  
Christ the Redeemer Parish  
Slows Barbeque  
Tijuana's Authentic Mexican Kitchen  
United Way for Southeastern Michigan  
University of Detroit Mercy

## Food Partners

Western Market  
Metz Culinary Management  
Tommy's Smoothies and Snacks

## Community Partners

Lakeridge Village  
Princeton Street Block Club  
Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries  
MoFlo Garden  
Live6 Alliance  
San Juan Block Club  
Keep Growing Detroit  
Gleaners Community Food Bank  
Project Healthy Community  
Forgotten Harvest  
The Roeper School



**F O R D | F U N D**



United Way  
for Southeastern Michigan