



2023 Impact Report

Titan Equity Nourish Network

tenn@udmercy.edu
www.udmercy.edu/tenn

Facebook: facebook.com/detmercytenn
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FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

The last year was an exciting and transitional time. When I took over managing the Titan Equity Nourish Network in November of 2022, I felt grateful for the student leaders who had been leading TENN for months without a manager. Their work enabled me to learn the ropes and begin planning for a new year of growth.

In 2023, we expanded our food access and sustainability programming, increased our staff, and generated new energy on campus. As a result of our team’s hard work, TENN has also seen an increase in donor and community support. We greatly appreciate everyone who helps TENN continue impactful programming for students and our community. Our success and growth are due to those who support our work through donations, volunteering and collaborating on projects.

Thank you for an incredible year!

CHELSEA MANNING

Program Manager
Titan Equity Nourish Network

ABOUT

Titan Equity Nourish Network (TENN) is a student-led food justice program at University of Detroit Mercy that fosters student and community collaboration for a more food-sovereign Detroit. TENN provides students with real opportunities to apply lessons learned in the classroom as they design and lead programs that promote equity and sustainability in the food system. Student leaders coordinate several service opportunities each week that reduce the immediate effects and systemic causes of hunger and food waste.

OUR MISSION: To find solutions to challenges in the Detroit food system by engaging student passion and community wisdom. TENN community members and students work together to raise awareness, address immediate needs and engage in critical thinking about the systemic causes of these challenges.

OUR VISION: Creative collaboration in Detroit toward an equitable and sustainable food system.

OUR STAFF

Titan Equity Nourish Network’s neighborhood deliveries and on-campus programming created buzz on campus and encouraged new students to get involved. As a result, our team increased by 40% from the previous year. TENN hosted four College of Health Professions interns, two social work interns, a communications intern, an accounting intern and five student staffers.

2023 IN NUMBERS



12,191

POUNDS OF FOOD DELIVERED
70% FRESH PRODUCE



130

FAMILIES FED THROUGH
OUR PRODUCE DELIVERIES



650

STUDENTS ENGAGED



1,881

HOURS VOLUNTEERING
FOR TENN SERVICE EVENTS



206

UNIQUE VOLUNTEERS FOR
TENN SERVICE EVENTS



400

POUNDS OF PRODUCE
DELIVERED FROM OUR GARDEN



EXPANDED DELIVERIES

With a strong and expanded team, TENN started a new partnership with Theresa Maxis Senior Apartments to bring their residents fresh produce bi-weekly. We now serve 80 seniors from Theresa Maxis and 55 families in the Martin Park neighborhood. In 2023, our team and volunteers delivered more than 12,000 pounds of food; 70 percent of it was fresh produce.



GARDEN UPDATES

Thanks to the hard work of our new Garden Manager Katie Ruhno, the support of CWO Farms, and help from physician assistant students in the William Beaumont Society, the TENN garden had a fantastic growing season. We grew and delivered 400 pounds of fresh produce to the community!



COMPOST CHALLENGE

We turned this year's annual pumpkin composting challenge into a competition. Student orgs were encouraged to collect the most compostable material for a chance to win a pizza party and title as the most sustainable student group. Congrats to MEDLIFE and the Commuter Student Association for joining the challenge and collecting the most material! We collected more than 2,000 pounds of waste, which is equivalent to 166 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions or 160 cars off the road for a day!



IMMERSION DAYS

TENN hosted an immersion day for the University of Portland and partnered with Detroit Mercy's University Ministry to host two more for UDM students. These events allow students to immerse themselves in the topic of food justice by learning from organizations working in the field. This year, students visited Make Food Not Waste and the Detroit Partnership for Learning and Innovation to better understand sustainability and food sovereignty.



COMMUNITY MEAL

TENN hosted the first community meal for community partners. Oliver Gamez, TENN's community relations manager and student leader, worked to find new ways to provide food for the community. His goals, combined with community support, culminated into a community meal where attendees enjoyed food cooked by volunteers led by Chef Bob Greg, listened to live music performed by the Detroit Mercy Music Club, and had great conversations that strengthened relationships.



DETROIT URBAN HEALTH AI CHALLENGE

University of Detroit Mercy hosted the Detroit Urban Health AI Challenge to celebrate innovation and showcase talent in addressing urban health challenges through technology. TENN won second place with our AeroGrow proposal to use hydroponic systems to increase food access by making growing produce year-round accessible to the community.



FOOD FEST

This year's Food Fest fundraiser focused on supporting local businesses and food! Thirty-four student volunteers helped organize and put on the one-day event in which the whole campus was invited to play yard games, get lunch from 313-Curbside Eatery food truck, play Pie the Professor and enter a drawing for some locally made goods.



BIONEERS

TENN was thrilled to participate in this year's Great Lakes Bioneers Conference held at Detroit Mercy. This educational event is a platform for community members to network and highlight innovative approaches to environmental and social challenges. Sustainability manager Cari Gamlin and assistant manager Fatima Herrera hosted The Great Recycling Race youth learn-shop where 40 middle- and high-school students learned about the importance of separating waste then raced to sort items into recycling, trash and compostable materials.



YOUTH HEALTH EXPLORATION CAMP

The College of Health Professions & McAuley School of Nursing hosted a free camp for middle- and high-school students to explore health topics and participate in hands-on activities.

TENN hosted a session focusing on the food system its impact on the health of the planet its people. Students met in the TENN garden where they learned what a food system is and the impact of locally sourced food.

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

We want to say a special thank you to our community partners who help guide TENN and make our programming a success!

Princeton Street Block Club and Theresa Maxis Apartments serve as important partners in guiding TENN's community work.

Marcia, Theresa Maxis Apartments resident, supplied handmade wreaths for our Community Meal.

Gwen, president of the Princeton Street Block Club often serves as a consultant for TENN and assisted with this year's hiring and strategic planning.

Pastor Blanton L. Banks I of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church graciously let us use the church's kitchen to prepare food for the community meal.

Chef Bob Greg from Robear Culinary donated his expertise and time for the community meal.

CWO Farms assisted with setting up the TENN garden and their work led to a record harvest of produce for our community.

The Office Coffee Shop, The Congregation, Walking Lightly, Not Sorry Goods and UDM Alumni Relations donated items for our Food Fest local goods baskets. Other event sponsors included What's the Dill, Bink's Grill and Catholic Alliance Credit Union.

English Gardens supported our Composting Challenge by donating two pallets of unsold pumpkins helping us reach out 2,000 pounds of collected food waste.

TESTIMONIALS

Bridget Brown graduated from Detroit Mercy in 2012 and is the chief operating officer at the United Community Housing Coalition.

TENN "was my first real experience with strategic planning and relationship building while also giving me the opportunity to lead in a situation that impacted lives. I was wrapped in support at the University which allowed me to learn about leadership and community work with the guidance needed to be successful and gain confidence in my abilities."

Imani McNeal completed her Health Services Administration internship with TENN over the summer semester.

"TENN provided me with hands-on experience in collaboration with the community and my peers. It helped me grow in many aspects including exploration, communication and willingness to serve others. I am a student athlete. TENN gave me an opportunity to be a part of an organization outside of basketball."

Princeton Street Block Club residents said:

"We love you guys! You are such a blessing."

"I look forward to you every week."



DONOR THANK YOU

The Titan Equity Nourish Network is thankful for all of our donors, food partners, community partners, and student leaders who make our work possible.

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CWO Farms
Detroit Food Rescue
Eastern Market
GESU
Gleaners Food Bank
JB's Urban Farm
Keep Growing Detroit

Make Food Not Waste
Midtown Composting
MSU DPFLI
New Martin Park District Association
Portland University
Theresa Maxis Senior Apartments
Yad Ezra

STUDENT STAFF

Antajuan Scott
Cari Gamlin
Fatima Herrera
Katie Ruhno
Sonya Simmons
Oliver Gamez

TENN INTERNS

HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Erica Francisco
Imani McNeal
Steven Howard
Zeinab Chami

COMMUNICATIONS

Jenny Raptoplous

SOCIAL WORK

Linda Donlekic
Lydia Chapman

ACCOUNTING

Tori King



4001 W. MCNICHOLS ROAD, DETROIT, MI, 48221-3038