INTRODUCTION

2020 was a year that none of us will ever forget. COVID-19 brought our world into a new and unexpected global health crisis. Our nation awakened to deep racialized inequities at the wake of the tragedy of George Floyd. Many organizations and companies were faced with an important question: how do we adapt and move forward in a way that empowers our team and reflects our mission?

For Campus Kitchen at Detroit Mercy, this first meant directly responding to the increased level of food insecurity. To do that, we tripled our food delivery efforts, delivering fresh produce and dry goods to 56+ households a week for an annualized total of 31,540 lbs of food donated.

We also had to find meaningful ways to ignite student passion digitally and with social distancing. Our annual Xavier Immersive Learning experience transitioned to a hybrid model that allowed for safe engagement among Detroit Mercy students, Xavier students, and Detroit food justice leaders. We opened our annual pumpkin composting event to the greater Detroit community, allowing for curbside pumpkin drop-offs that yielded donations of over 600 lbs of pumpkins.

We are grateful to our dedicated student staff and leaders who propel this organization forward even amidst trying times. We have learned creative ways to build relationships. From hosting a digital retreat where students identified new ideas for the future of TENN, to gathering for a socially distant picnic with foods from local businesses, to incorporating get-to-know-you check-in questions into each of our weekly digital staff meetings, we’ve found ways to continuously build community.

The pandemic also affirmed our choice of a new name: Titan Equity Nourish Network. By bringing light to racial, economic, and health disparities, 2020 echoed the importance of a commitment to equity in our work. We have also seen the value that networks and communities which create nourishing relationships bring to our world when faced with unprecedented challenges.

As it has for many, this year has given TENN time to intentionally reflect and think about what the future holds. While we look forward to days when the global pandemic will become a piece of history, we are filled with gratitude for what we have been able to accomplish in 2020. Join us now in looking back.
2020 IN NUMBERS

18 households served weekly at the start of 2020

3x increase in households due to COVID demand

56 households served weekly at the end of 2020

31,540 lbs food donated to our neighbors

76% of food donated was fresh produce

20,627 lbs food donated to Princeton Street

4,450 lbs food donated to Lakeridge Village

6,273 lbs food donated to families of Developing Despite Distance

6,104 people reached through social media posts

62 unique frontline volunteers at TENN service opportunities

247 unique students reached through TENN hybrid and digital programming

600 lbs pumpkins donated for compost at curbside community event

24 Xavier University students engaged in hybrid immersive learning with TENN
**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

**Produce delivery program expansion**

In response to increased levels of food insecurity, TENN worked with the Princeton Street Block Club to determine how to grow our produce delivery program. We increased the number of households engaged from 18 to 50, yielding a total of 56 households supported across both Princeton Street and our new partner, families of Developing Despite Distance. Weekly phone calls and occasional social distanced hellos during deliveries have allowed for relationships between students and community members to continue to blossom amidst isolation.

**Annual immersive learning course with Xavier University**

TENN hosted its annual immersive learning experience with Xavier University. Students in a course on the moral imagination applied themes found in literature to food justice. They engaged in food equity education and research with Detroit food leaders throughout the semester, including Patrice Brown of Eastern Market, Kibibi Blount-Dorn of the Detroit Food Policy Council, and Chef Phil Jones of Farmacy Foods. The semester concluded with an immersive learning day where Xavier and Detroit Mercy students participated in digital tours and conversations with partners at Eastern Market and Yad Ezra.

**Pumpkin Composting Event with Midtown Composting**

*The Atlantic* states that more than 1 billion pounds of pumpkin gets tossed into landfills in the US annually. To combat this waste, TENN partnered with Midtown Composting for its annual pumpkin composting event. Midtown Composting provides composting services to households and businesses in the metro-Detroit area. We held a drive-thru contactless pumpkin drop-off where folks could donate their pumpkin and enjoy fresh cider and donuts from our partners, Apple Fritter Donut Shop and Chef Bee of Sisters on a Roll Catering. We collected over 600 lbs pumpkins for composting.
On January 28, 2021, TENN will celebrate its 10th anniversary. Over the past 10 years, TENN has provided opportunities for students to engage in food justice and sustainability efforts in the community.

TENN began as Campus Kitchen, a part of Campus Kitchens Project (CKP), a national network of student-led organizations working to end food waste and hunger that started as DC Central Kitchen in 1989. Campus Kitchen at Detroit Mercy was the first CKP in the state of Michigan. CK’s work began with our first food delivery with Peggy’s Place and St. Gregory the Great Church on January 28, 2011. Within a couple of months, we added the Martin Park District Association. Since Campus Kitchen Projects dissolved in 2018, TENN is transitioning to becoming a chapter of the Food Recovery Network, a national nonprofit working with college and university students to reduce food waste.

For many Detroit Mercy students, Campus Kitchen provided opportunities to explore the greater food system and grow as leaders and partners in community-based learning. Our first administrative coordinator, Detroit Mercy alumni Bridget Brown, reflects on her experience below.

“At CKUDM, I was able to help take an idea and turn it into action. I was already in love with the city and I wanted to encourage others to be a part of it. Layering that passion with the Jesuit education and the support from Detroit Mercy staff and the CKUDM student team, I learned how to listen to multiple viewpoints to build solutions and effective partnerships. I believe this allowed me to learn how to think more creatively and is directly related to my career today” - Bridget Brown, Director of Food Secure Livingston at Gleaners Community Food Bank
LAUNCHING TITAN EQUITY NOURISH NETWORK

**titan**
We are proud to be Titans. Community collaboration ignites our students and nourishes growth through meaningful service opportunities and educational engagement.

**equity**
We strive for a food system that is grounded in equity because equality does not equate to justice. Through mutually beneficial relationships with our community, we seek to examine and remediate the root causes of food and environmental inequity.

**nourish**
We nourish bodies, relationships, minds and the earth. While nourishment can be acquired through food, we also nourish through community engagement, education, and sustainable practices.

**network**
We are privileged to be a part of a greater network. In collaboration with Detroit Mercy staff, faculty, and students, community partners and campus neighbors, we work together for a more food sovereign Detroit.

“**TENN means wanting to ignite change in our community that will be longstanding and grow even without our help. I imagine it like planting a tree and supporting it until its roots are developed enough for it to continue to care for itself now that it has all the means to be self-sustainable.**”
Sonya Simmons, Sophomore
OUR HOPES FOR TENN

“To me TENN is hope for the future of our food system. I hope that we can continue to work with the community to meet their needs and build our relationship with them. I also hope we will be an active part in creating a more food sovereign Detroit.”
Makalah McDougal, Sophomore

“TENN is turning the corner into a new era. It is what you will make it. Come into our organization ready to learn and relearn. It is going to make your experience at Detroit Mercy truly valuable.”
Nazifa Chowdhury, Senior

“I hope we continue to inspire students and people to start to become leaders in issues like the ones TENN chooses to tackle. I think the inherent compassion needed to do something like this is something we need more of in the world.”
Sonya Simmons, Sophomore

“I hope that more students and others in the Detroit Mercy community get involved. TENN does incredible work for the Detroit community! Being a part of this organization not only helped me develop my social and professional skills, but it also allowed me to meet and develop strong relationships with amazing people who have shaped me into the best version of myself.”
Sara Abdulieelah, Senior
THANK YOU

The Titan Equity Nourish Network is thankful for all of our donors, food partners, community partners and the student leaders who make our work possible. We especially thank the Ford Fund for critical financial support for our program as well as partnering with us in community projects, and for the contribution of the Ford Mobile Pantry along with the United Way of Southeastern Michigan. We thank the Sisters of St. Joseph Congregation for their generous contribution as a part of their COVID relief effort, which has allowed us to expand food delivery operations amidst COVID-19.

Corporate and Nonprofit Donors

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United Way of SE Michigan
Detroit Salsa Company
Christ the Redeemer Parish
Princeton Street Block Club
Jesuit Community at Detroit Mercy

Educational & Community Partners

Princeton Street Block Club
Lakeridge Village
Developing Despite Distance
JB’s Urban Farm
Xavier University
Sisters on a Roll Mobile Catering
Chef Phil Jones
Eastern Market Partnership
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