



2024 Impact Report

Titan Equity Nourish Network

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FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

2024 was a remarkable year for TENN, marked by growth, innovation, and deeper community impact. Thanks to the commitment of our student leaders and community partners, we ignited student passions, elevated food access in our neighborhood, and put our community first through engagement programming.

This progress would not have been possible without the generosity and dedication of individuals and groups who support our mission. Your support through donations, volunteering, or collaboration, drives our success and helps us grow year after year.

Thank you for being an integral part of another incredible year!

CHELSEA MANNING

Program Manager
Titan Equity Nourish Network

ABOUT

TENN is a student-led food justice program at the University of Detroit Mercy that fosters student and community collaboration for a more food sovereign Detroit. TENN provides students with real opportunities to apply things they learn in the classroom as they design and lead programs that promote equity and sustainability in the food system. Student leaders coordinate multiple service opportunities each week that reduce the immediate effects of hunger and food waste. They also analyze the systemic issues to better address the root causes.

OUR MISSION:

To find solutions to challenges in the Detroit food system by engaging student passion and community wisdom.

OUR VISION:

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

2024 IN NUMBERS



24,086
POUNDS OF FOOD DELIVERED
79% FRESH PRODUCE



300
FAMILIES FED THROUGH
OUR PRODUCE DELIVERIES



760
STUDENTS ENGAGED



1,567
HOURS VOLUNTEERING
FOR TENN SERVICE EVENTS



248
UNIQUE VOLUNTEERS FOR
TENN SERVICE EVENTS



470
POUNDS OF PRODUCE
DELIVERED FROM OUR GARDEN

Igniting Student Passion

SUSTAINABILITY

It was a dynamic year for TENN's sustainability initiatives thanks to our student leader's passion and vision. **Make Food Not Waste** sparked student interest in reducing food waste on campus. As a result, we partnered to bring their Plate to Planet program to the Titan Dining Hall, where we measured lunch food waste to raise awareness about preventable waste in the cafeteria. Additionally, we continued our composting competition, hosted a plant swap event, and integrated sustainability into our annual Food Fest fundraiser.

INTERNSHIP AND STAFF

TENN's growing presence on campus allowed us to expand our team by an impressive 58% compared to the previous year. This year, we welcomed four interns from the College of Health Professions, two social work interns, one accounting intern, seven student staff members, and four volunteer student leaders.

STUDENT STAFF AND LEADERS

Antajuan Scott	Taspiya Begum
Cari Gamlin	Isabelle Francis
Fatima Herrera	Dalia Khoshe
Katie Ruhno	Qamar Elia
Oliver Gamez	Serena Yousif
Natasha Davis-Mickles	

TENN INTERNS

HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Sarah Kellogg
Devin Mangru
Aisha Syed
Kyndal Wofford

SOCIAL WORK

Lydia Chapman
Nia Dorsey

ACCOUNTING

Tori King

Elevating Food Access

FORGOTTEN HARVEST HELPS US EXPAND DELIVERIES

2024 was a milestone year for TENN's produce delivery program. In addition to continuing our deliveries to the **Princeton Street Block Club**, we secured a partnership with **Forgotten Harvest** to expand the deliveries we were already doing at **Theresa Maxis Senior Apartments**. We also began supporting a Community Fridge, an outdoor refrigerator where anyone can donate or take food, sponsored by the **New Martin Park District Association** and **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**. Thanks to our dedicated efforts and incredible partners, TENN delivered an unprecedented 24,000 pounds of food to the community!

MAKING NEWS

We were honored to participate in Gleaners' Double Your Donation Day. Program Manager Chelsea Manning and student leader Kyndal Wofford were featured on Fox 2 News, where they shared the impact of their work in the community and how **Gleaners** helps make TENN's mission possible.

Scan the QR code to view this news segment:



STUDENT MEAL DONATIONS

Thanks to our students' generosity, TENN facilitated an end-of-semester meal donation event where students contributed unused meal swipes to the community. Inspired by student leader Emily Kzyonsek, who began donating her swipes as a freshman, the initiative invited other students to share their swipes. Members of the Martin Park Neighborhood and Theresa Maxis Senior Apartments were invited to enjoy a free meal in the Titan Dining Room thanks to our genius students. Additionally, 111 to-go meals were delivered to **Brilliant Detroit** and Theresa Maxis Senior Apartments. Special thanks to **Metz Culinary** for supporting this meaningful event.

"Inviting community members to join us on campus and share meals has been incredibly rewarding. Donating meals isn't just about providing food, it's about building connections, breaking down barriers, and reminding us that we're all part of the same community. Seeing the joy and unity it brings has been truly inspiring, and I'm excited to watch this initiative grow even further."

- Emily Kzyonsek

GARDEN UPDATES

This year marked a transition for our garden program as we bid farewell to our garden manager, Katie Ruhno, after her graduation. We were thrilled to welcome Serena Yousif, who brought a wealth of expertise and energy to the role. Under Yousif's leadership, the garden expanded with the addition of one raised bed and two ground beds. Generous donations from Home Depot and Lowe's provided soil and transplants, enabling us to expand without additional costs. After some dedicated teamwork and plenty of elbow grease, TENN harvested and delivered 470 pounds of fresh produce to our neighbors. Yousif also helped TENN host two garden parties, where we welcomed our partners to enjoy delicious food, connect and celebrate our beautiful garden together.

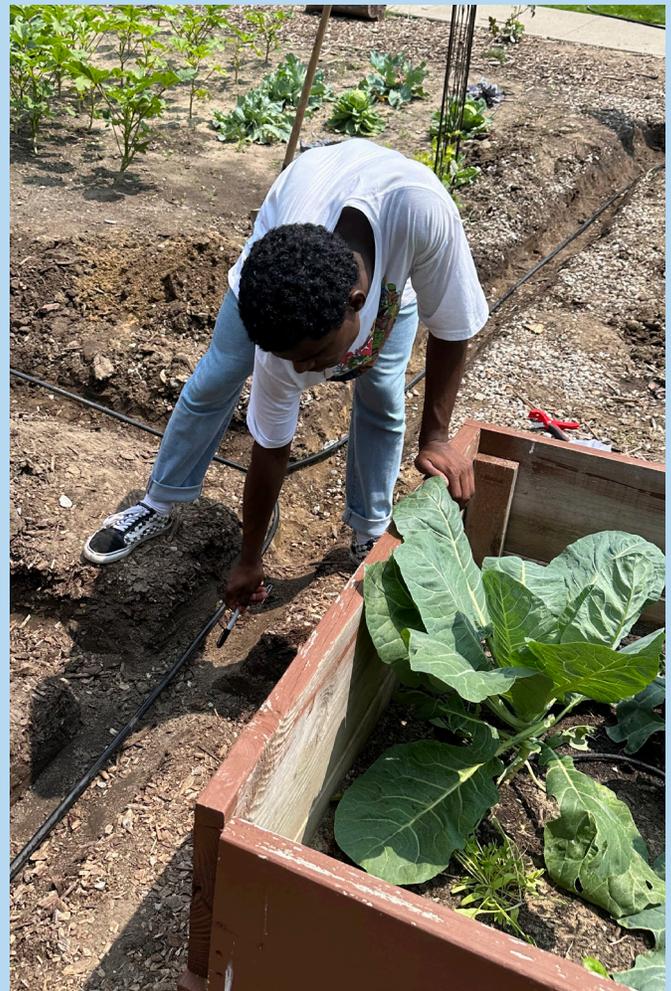
A special thanks to the students from the **Science and Engineering Equity Development Program** on the MicNichols Campus for applying their engineering skills to design and install an irrigation system for the TENN garden. Their contribution has significantly improved our watering process.

FOOD JUSTICE WORKSHOPS

In 2024, TENN launched a new Food Justice Workshop initiative to investigate the systemic causes of food insecurity. Partnering with a Health Services Administration class and a Philosophy class, TENN organized a systems mapping activity where students and community members collaborated to identify and illustrate the causal relationships influencing food security.

"The community engagement experience was truly remarkable and unforgettable. It opened my eyes to the complexities surrounding issues like food insecurity and the multitude of factors contributing to its prevalence. Through visual representations and group brainstorming sessions, I gained valuable skills in dissecting topics and delving deep into their underlying causes. Furthermore, I was deeply moved by the dedication of individuals within the community who passionately invest their time and effort to improve the lives of others."

- Mariam Korkees



Community First Initiatives

COMMUNITY MEAL

TENN's second Community Meal brought together 67 people for an evening of connection. Volunteer **Chef Bob Grig** from **Ro-Bear Culinary**, aided by student volunteers, prepared a delicious meal in Good Shepherd Lutheran Church's kitchen, thanks to **Pastor Blanton L. Banks'** generosity. Our dedicated student volunteers created a warm, welcoming atmosphere, engaging guests throughout the night and providing music for entertainment. We were honored to host university staff, faculty, alumni, students, and community members from Martin Park, the Princeton Street Block Club, Theresa Maxis Senior Apartments, CWO Farms, and local parishes Gesu and Ss. Peter and Paul

"It was an honor to be a part of the 2024 community meal. The event was a joyful, especially timely communal celebration which encouraged new, diverse connections and celebrated seasoned friendships, all while surrounded by groovy music, Chef's delicious food, and genuinely great vibes. Thank you TENN!"

- *Gwen Knowles, President of the Princeton Street Block Club.*



GAME NIGHTS

Each semester, TENN hosts an event for Princeton Street Block Club and Theresa Maxis residents, bringing everyone together to strengthen connections. Student leader Oliver Gamez organized games, prizes, food and entertainment to create a welcoming and engaging experience. This year, TENN held a Halloween game night on campus and a winter-themed event at Theresa Maxis. A heartfelt thank you to our friends and family who generously donated ornaments for the winter game night!

FOOD FEST: THRIFT AND LOCAL POP-UP SHOP

TENN's Thrift and Local Pop-Up Shop at this year's Food Fest fundraiser brought the campus and community together for a day of sustainable shopping and support. Guests explored gently used clothing, available for a donation of their choice, and visited local business tables. We were proud to collaborate with **Xclusive Hair Care**, **Better Detroit Brownies** and their alumni, **Chi Fan Le**, **D&D Creations**, **313 Curbside Eatery**, **Make Food Not Waste**, **Pure Essence Resale**, **Alliance Catholic Credit Union** as well as UDM student vendors.



IMMERSION DAYS

TENN partnered with University Ministry at Detroit Mercy to host two immersive experiences in which students learned from organizations in Detroit working toward food justice and sustainability. This year, participants spent a day with the **SDM2 Project Education**, assisting with their weekly food distribution, and took a "Toxic Tour" of Detroit's most polluted Zip Code, led by local activist **Theresa Landrum**. We are deeply grateful to our inspiring partners. When students see firsthand the impact these individuals have had in creating positive change within their communities, they, too, are empowered to become change agents.

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

A heartfelt thank you to our community partners for their invaluable guidance and support in making TENN's programming a success! In addition to the valuable community partners highlighted in bold in other sections of this Impact Report, we would like to express our appreciation for our partnerships.

Ss. Peter and Paul and Gesu parishes have started partnering with TENN and volunteering for produce deliveries and in the garden. We are grateful for their help, especially over the summer when there are fewer students on campus to volunteer.

The Marketing & Communications Department at University of Detroit Mercy supported our Community Meal event and did a photo shoot with student leaders.

The Vella Group generously donated its time to create a professional and impactful brochure to advertise TENN's work.



TESTIMONIALS

Fatima Herrera '24, Biology Major, served as TENN's Sustainability Assistant Manager.



"Being with TENN has been a really empowering experience creating connections and community with Detroit Mercy students and our surrounding neighbors through the delivery service. Our community dinners are a testament to the bonds we've built, bringing people together to share stories, laughter and really great food that was made with

amazing chefs/cooks and the student volunteers. It's these positive relationships that make our work at TENN so meaningful we're not only delivering food but also delivering friendship, support, and a sense of belonging. It greatly enhanced my undergraduate experience."

Kyndal Wofford '24 completed her Health Administration Services major and interned with TENN over the fall semester.



"Working with TENN was a very eye-opening experience. It showed me how useful the food we deliver is to the community. It was also great building relationships with the community members who depend on us. Everyone was always so friendly and inviting when they saw us doing deliveries."

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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Detroit Food Rescue
Forgotten Harvest
GESU
Gleaners Food Bank
JB's Urban Farm
Keep Growing Detroit
Make Food Not Waste
Midtown Composting
New Martin Park District Association
Princeton Street Block Club
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Ss. Vincent de Paul
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Yad Ezra

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