



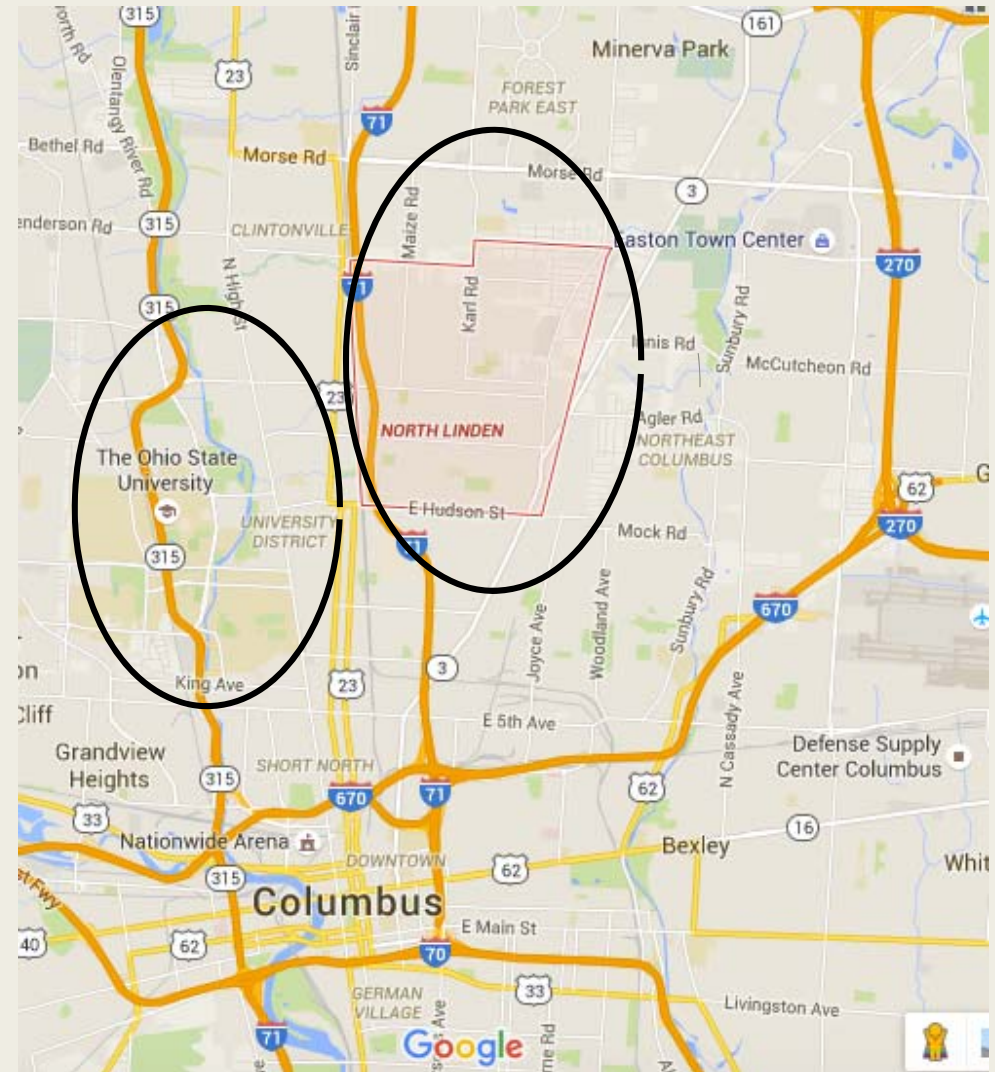
Intergenerational Community Development through Urban Food Systems

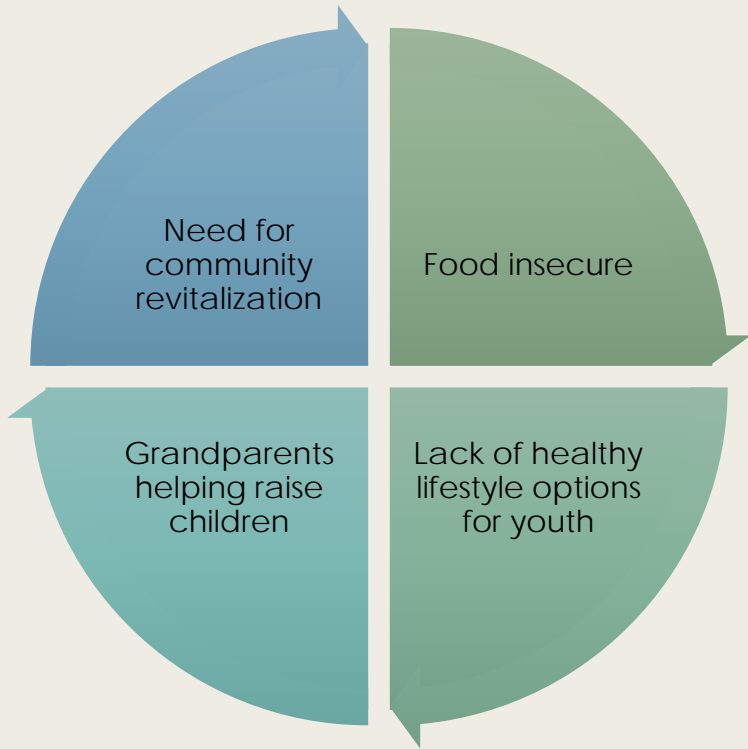
Kelly Henderson &
Dr. Mary Rodriguez
The Ohio State University
Department of Agricultural
Communication, Education &
Leadership

“ Community development
is giving people the
resources and tools they
need to make their own
choices”

Introduction

- **Population:** predominantly first ancestry Sub-Saharan African Americans
- **Income:** At or below poverty level
- **Unemployment:** nearly double national average
- **Landscape:** Vacant housing + lots; drug abuse; violent crimes; prostitution; disproportionate # of corner stores

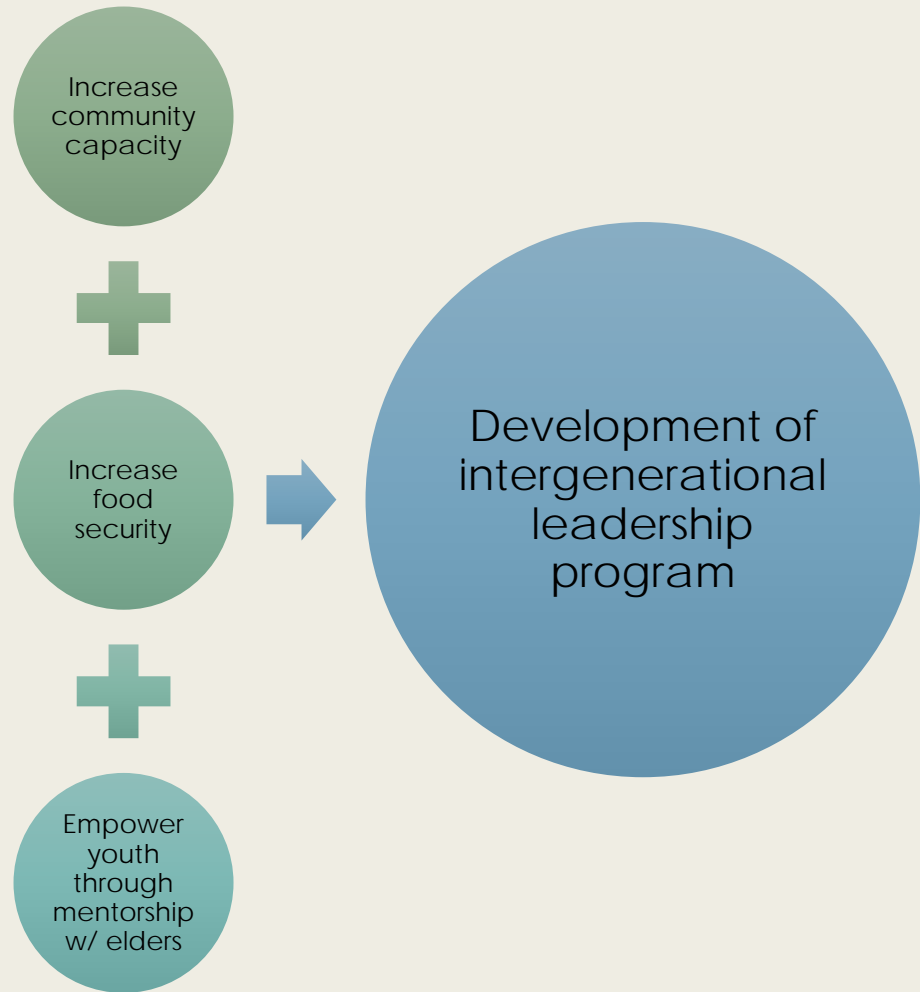




"Good neighbors make great neighborhoods" -Linden community members



Urban Ag +



Purpose & Objectives

- One participant stakeholder's perspective:



Describe the program development and activities.



Detail outcomes that resulted from the project.



Provide implications and recommendations for how this program may be replicated in communities.

Methods

- Average: 10 youth, ages 14-18 - Paid
- 5 elders, 50+
- 2 co-teachers, New Harvest
- ACEL Graduate Associate + Assistant Professors
- Funding: OSU Seed CARES grant
- Summer youth program (5 days/week) → fall youth 4-H program (2 days/week)
- Honorariums for mentors (under \$600)
- Central focus: Weekly farmer's market June-October





- Collaborations: OSU Extension, Office of Diversity & Inclusion, ACEL Department, New Harvest Café & Urban Arts Center
- Expand fruit & vegetable production in community gardens
- Positive youth development model
- Farmer's Market w/ focus on food access + culturally appropriate options
- Horticultural skills + Culture + art =Tools of empowerment
- Build intergenerational community development through elder mentorship

Farmer's Market on Cleveland Avenue







Community Engagement + Beautification



Storytelling + shared learning

“you can’t hate anyone
whose story you know”





OSU ACEL Department Leadership Activities





Building trust through teamwork

Results

- 1 vacant lot added to production system
- Community-food centered events organized by youth
- Youth & elder led markets
- Community education & engagement fostered
- **Development of formal 4-H club: trained residents as volunteers and advisors**
- Miss Linda's pepper jelly recipe + business model adapted by teens, sold at markets + schools





4-H Carving New Ideas Camp Ohio

"My only regret was not getting to know people sooner."



Food for thought...

1. Be prepared for unintended consequences!





2. Partnerships + Community Engagement

= Sustainability!



Food for thought...

- How can you break down barriers between generations and create shared learning experiences?
- Are you engaging youth and adults to ensure they are bringing nutrition education home to familial units?
- How can you build lasting and mutually trusting relationships and partnerships?
 - Do you know who you are working with and have you established goals up front?
 - Be patient!

Urban gardens may be tools for community building and can create central, safe spaces for co-agency and neighborhood pride among both participants and community members.



Questions?

Contact: henderson.432@osu.edu