

The Fight Against Food Insecurity in Cincinnati, OH

LC 7 Service-Learning Advocacy Assignment Presentation

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Our Community Partner: Churches Active in Northside (CAIN)

- CAIN is a non-profit pantry in Northside. Their mission includes:
 - Providing a free-choice food pantry with a variety of healthy choices for their patrons
 - Working with other community partners such as the library to address other social determinants of health
 - Offering other resources to primarily Northside community members, but has also opened their doors to anyone in Cincinnati



Our Project: Improve nutritional education for children experiencing food insecurity

We used a tech-based approach to promoting childhood nutrition while entertaining CAIN guests:

Our project: create educational, engaging materials/activities about nutrition for children at the food pantry

1. Children often shop with their parents at CAIN
2. Survey parents about access/needs
3. Provide fun online games/activities that educate kids on healthy eating habits



17 Website
Visitors, 5
Returning



Average
Engagement
Time: ~70 s



Games engaged
~18 s longer than
Videos

A flyer for 'Game Corner' at CAIN. It features the logos for the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and Churches Active in Northside. The title is 'Game Corner' and 'Esquina de Juegos'. It includes instructions in English and Spanish on how to use a phone or device camera to scan a QR code to access the games. There are also icons of baskets of fruit.

Relevance to Cincinnati: Poor access to healthy food exists across the city, especially in Northside



Every resident of Cincinnati deserves equal access to a well-rounded diet, inclusive of fruits and vegetables



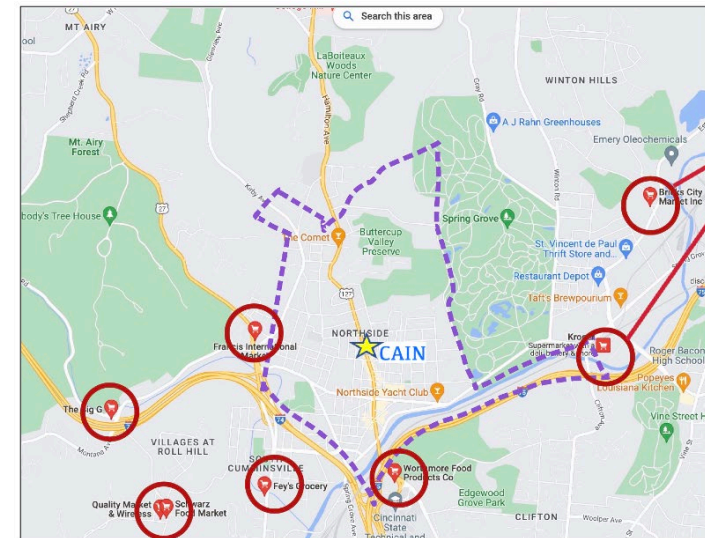
Unequal access to healthy food not only puts a strain on the individual but also the healthcare system as a whole



Lack of convenient access to grocery stores motivates fast food consumption and unhealthy eating habits



Low SES parents may lack the time to educate their kids on healthy eating habits



Grocery Stores

The neighborhood of Northside is a food desert. Grocery stores are outlined in red.

Social Determinant of Health: Food insecurity

Food insecurity, defined as limited/uncertain access to nutritionally adequate and safe food, is a nationwide problem affecting more than 10.2% of US households – this is what CAIN hopes to address

Cincinnati is highly susceptible to food insecurity



>270,000 families across Cincinnati experience food insecurity each year, impacting all 52 neighborhoods

Cincinnati would need a **MINIMUM** of 10 more grocery stores to meet the national average

Food access in Cincinnati was increasingly threatened last February when pandemic-era SNAP benefits were reduced

How the Cincinnati city government can help: Invest in the community and prioritize food access

Invest In:



Grocery Stores



Build an **affordable grocery store** in Northside



Transportation



Until a grocery store is built and opened in Northside, **improving public transportation** in Northside to bring residents to/from grocery stores in the nearby neighborhoods



Education



Improve education and access to resources for SNAP benefits for low-income households

Conclusion

Food security is important to the health of individuals in a community

CAIN addresses this gap in Cincinnati, working towards reducing SDOH-based disparities in Northside

Through investment and prioritization, the Cincinnati City Government is uniquely positioned to dramatically change the face of food insecurity in our city

