Improving Baltimore Community Nutrition Through Enhanced Food Access and Community Gardens. Elizabeth Campbell

The Community Greening Resource Network (CGRN) is a collaboration between Parks & People Foundation and University of Maryland Extension. It connects community gardens, schools, and green spaces to the resources and efforts of numerous organizations throughout Baltimore City. Many CGRN members are involved in local food production. They are a valuable tool to improving food access in Baltimore communities, which is a major priority of City government and many nonprofits. Subsequently, CGRN is looking to expand community nutrition outreach in its network of support. To do so, CGRN partnered with the Community Impact Internship Program of Johns Hopkins University. Through this collaboration, CGRN assembled and created a nutrition workshop that was presented to community members. Numerous pieces of literature concerning this topic were also created and disseminated. Residents were most open to utilizing community gardens and improving their diet when CGRN worked directly with the community alongside City government rather than making decisions that affected the community without its input. As such, the work between CGRN and the Community Impact Internship Program allowed its collaborators to gain a better understanding of attitudes concerning nutrition and the most effective ways to improve communities.