Food Justice for Omaha Immigrants and Racial Minorities

Johniece Parker and Jesus Yañez
In partnership with Charles Drew
Food Gone Wrong

- Food as a political tool
- Myth of food scarcity
- Myth of food being too expensive
- Obesity and Starvation
Why Food Justice?

• Do some people *deserve* food more than others?
• Farming and working conditions
• Domination of food technology vs. natural food
Food Justice in the Omaha Community

- Food pantries
- Community Gardens
- Other Food Organizations
Sociological and Cultural Lenses

- Relationship building
- Community building
- Community Acceptance
- Awareness and Open Mindedness
Food with Charles Drew Health Center

- MEETING THE NEEDS OF COMMUNITY RIGHT WHERE THEY ARE AT!
- Resource and food insecurity
- African Americans, Karen Immigrants, and more!
  - Healthy Families Class
  - Summer Gardening Program
  - Omaha Farmers Market
Charles Drew Mission and Vision

Dedicated to providing quality comprehensive health care in a manner that acknowledges the dignity of the individual, the strength of the family, and the supportive network of the community.

MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY WHERE THEY ARE AT!

INTEGRATIVE CARE
DENISE SCHMITZ
dietician/
nutrition specialist
Healthy Families/Cooking Matters Initiative

• Diagnosed or at risk youth for obesity in the community
  • Emphasis/inclusion of family
  • Family dinner and education
• Health screenings
• YMCA memberships
• Meal Plans
• Coupons
Summer Gardening Program

• Community building
  • All ages
• Education on Food
• Education on Nutrition
• Physical Activity
Transforming the Omaha Farmers Market
Problems

• Funding
• Translation of education materials
• Volunteers

• Increased Integration of others in the community (racial groups)
Social Justice

• Everyone deserves equitable and equal right to food as it is a necessity.
  • Health and well-being

• Value of food and nutrition

• Cura Personalis