

2025-2026

Local - PATH Center

McMaster Fellow

Mollie Sorrell, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Biology and Director of STEM Research - The PATH (Partnership Assistance to the Homeless) Center is a local organization dedicated to supporting individuals and families experiencing food insecurity. Despite the abundance of food produced in the United States, food insecurity remains a persistent challenge, particularly among low-income households and senior citizens. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of individuals facing food insecurity has risen significantly. This increase can be attributed to several factors, including widespread job instability, limited access to transportation, and disruptions in access to free school meals due to the shift to remote learning.

The PATH Center in Defiance, Ohio relies significantly on donations and volunteer support to provide essential services to local residents in need. This research-based learning community aims to establish a functional greenhouse on campus to grow fresh vegetables and herbs, which will be donated to the PATH Center for distribution to individuals experiencing food insecurity. The Center has specifically expressed a need for fresh produce and spices, as these items are often difficult for food-insecure individuals to access. While the initial focus of this partnership is to enhance access to nutritious food, the learning community also provides a platform for developing additional research projects that align with and support the PATH Center's broader mission. Through this initiative, student scholars will have the opportunity to pursue research aligned with their personal academic interests while making a tangible impact in the Defiance community.

McMaster Scholars

Allie Bevins, Self-Designed

Jazmine Hoffman, Environmental Science

Baylee Ingle, Forensic Science

Connor Sintobin, Environmental Science