DeShaun Baker
Community Design Center of Minnesota
Youth Garden/Nutrition Corps
General Overview of Community Design Center

- East Side of St. Paul
- 43 year-old non-profit
- We call it CDC

Mission is to build vibrant, healthy communities through food, conservation & youth development
General Overview of Community Design Center

3 programs
- Gardening/Entrepreneurship
- Cooking/Nutrition
- Conservation
General Overview of Community Design Center

Each program has:

- Youth Internships
- Action Projects
- Education for youth and community members
General Overview of Community Design Center

- Youth Internships
- Garden Corps
- Nutrition Corps
- Conservation Corps

- Internships are employment training for 45 teens. They help youth learn, contribute, navigate, and thrive!
General Overview of Community Design Center

Action Projects (Examples)

- Garden Corps
  - Roots for the Home Team
  - CSA & Farmers Markets
  - Product sales

- Conservation Corps
  - Install rain gardens
  - Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary Restoration
General Overview of Community Design Center

Education classes for youth and community members

- We teach more than 1400 kids & parents each year
- We provide hands-on classes and tours at our gardens, schools, rec centers and other local sites
My Role

- Second year youth intern
- A leader for new interns
- Help new intern prepare for tour
- Help maintain gardens
- Help with projects
Knowledge I Have Gained

• Little things are as important as the big things
• Helped me develop skills to maintain my own garden
  • Broccoli
  • Tomatoes
• Helped me find something out about myself
  • I have a passion for cooking
  • I love veggie quesadillas (ingredients)
Impact If More People Are Involved

- It will affect everything and everybody!
- More people eating healthier foods instead of processed foods - expands their life span
- Less polluted water
- More people growing up knowing how to cook, leading toward a healthier future
- Because kids are the future!
Thank you!!