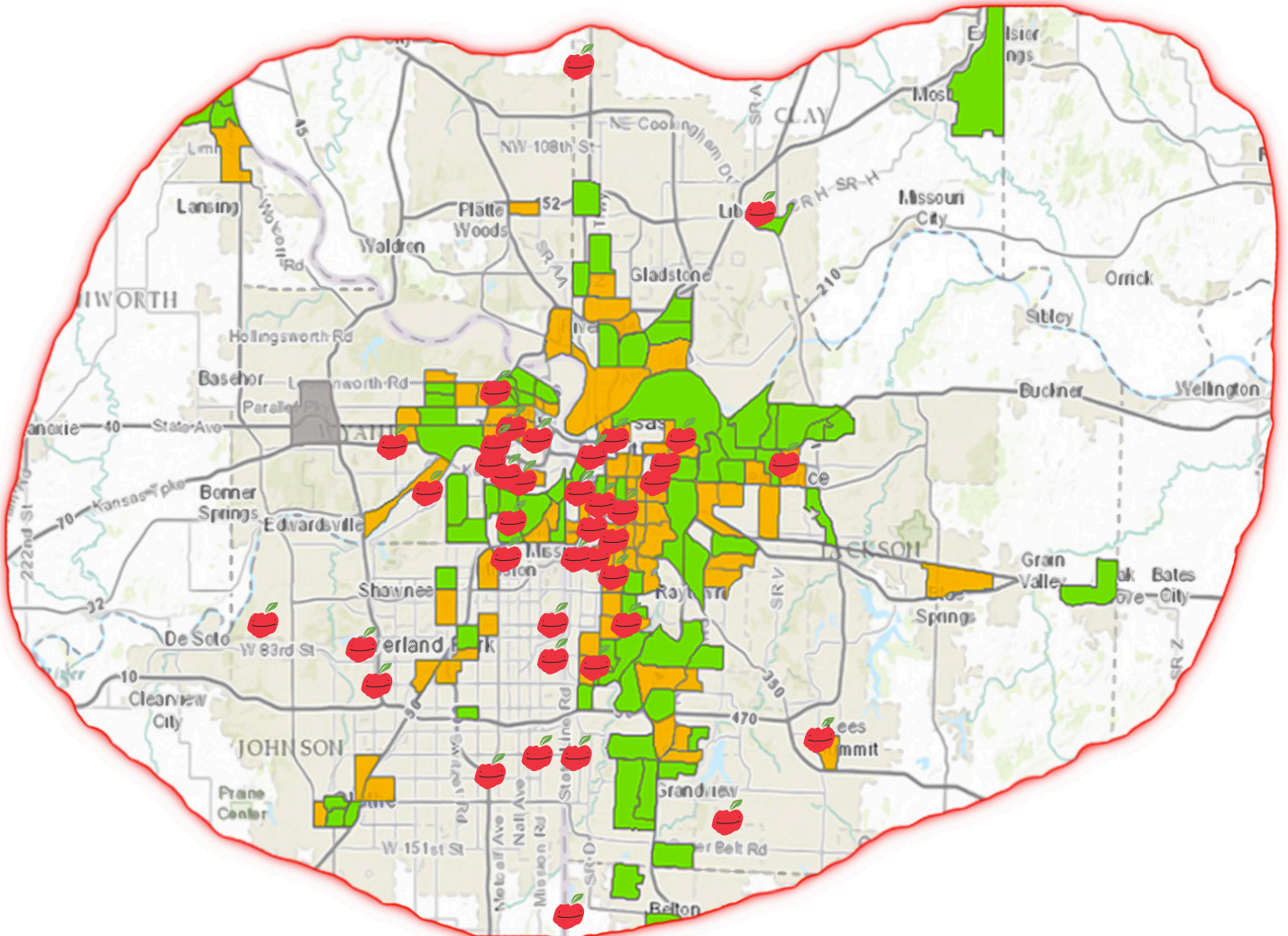
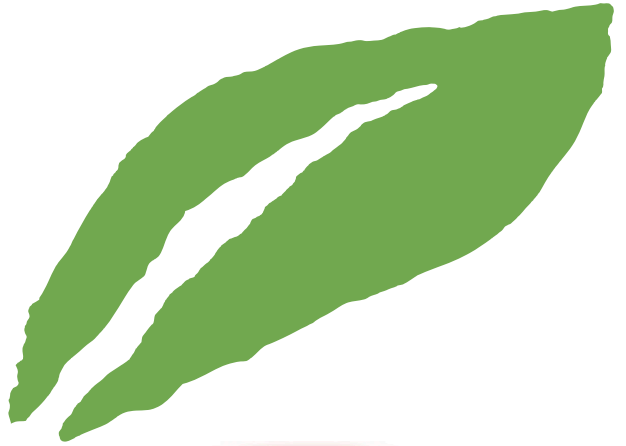



the
**GIVING
GROVE**




2014 ANNUAL REPORT



Giving Grove Site Map

 Low Income FOOD DESERT - 1/2 mile from nearest supermarket (urban).

 Low Income FOOD DESERT - 1 mile from nearest supermarket (urban).

OUR MISSION

To improve local food security and strengthen communities by bringing together the resources to develop edible tree gardens.

Edible Tree Gardens are ecologically and sustainably grown food systems that provide fruits, nuts, berries and edible perennial crops to feed those in need.

“When we started working toward reopening our neighborhood school, the garden was one of the first things that drew us together as a community. Through gardening we’ve met neighbors, alums, parents, students, and made some very special friends too. Thank you to our friends at The Giving Grove and The Kansas City Community Gardens who provide us with continuing education, guidance, feedback, and help when we need it the most.” - **HALE COOK ELEMENTARY**

The Giving Grove is a program of Kansas City Community Gardens (KCCG). KCCG’s mission is to assist low-income households and community groups in the Kansas City metropolitan area to produce vegetables and fruit from garden plots located in backyards, vacant lots, and at community sites. KCCG began in 1979 as the Metropolitan Lutheran Ministry’s “Community Garden Project,” an initiative started to help low-income families save money on grocery bills. In 1985, the organization became incorporated as an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. For more than thirty years, KCCG’s programming has empowered community and backyard gardeners throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area to improve nutrition and food security, reduce food costs, prevent obesity and other health risks, and promote locally grown and sustainable food. To learn more about KCCG’s work, please visit www.kccg.org

HISTORY

The Giving Grove was founded in 2011 by three of the current Board members: Kevin Birzer, Greg Finkle and Ray Makalous. Deeply concerned for the growing number of hungry people and seeking a way to provide more sustainable, nutrient-rich food, these three began exploring the idea of creating edible tree gardens across the metro area in order to feed the hungry.

In 2011 the seeds for The Giving Grove were sown as Kevin Birzer, Greg Finkle and Ray Makalous were focusing on hunger issues in the Greater Kansas City Area. Their concern for the growing number of people who experience food insecurity led them to explore a local, more sustainable way to provide nutrient rich foods. The idea became edible tree gardens – orchards – planted in communities of need and in food deserts, in vacant lots and next to food pantries, on school and church grounds. *The seeds germinated.*

Undertaking a year of research and planning, the expanded six-person core team worked to make the idea a reality. Leveraging the expertise of horticulturists, farmers, local extension agencies, nutrition experts, community leaders, and landscape architects, The Giving Grove team developed an organizational model founded on 1) Community involvement 2) Orchard stewardship 3) Sustainable and organic growing practices, and 4) An equitable harvest and sharing with those in need. It is the active involvement and training of the stewards (community orchardists) and apprentices in proper fruit tree care that is fundamental to The Giving Grove model. *The seedlings grew.*

In 2012, the Giving Grove hired Rob Reiman as the Executive Director and Ray Makalous as the Director of Outreach. Shortly thereafter, The Giving Grove sought to partner with the Kansas City Community Gardens (KCCG), another local non-profit with a similar mission. The Giving Grove program compliments Kansas City Community Gardens' Community Partner Gardens and Schoolyard Gardens with edible tree gardens.

In January of 2013, The Giving Grove became an official program of KCCG. Another important partnership established in our early growth stage is the gleaning organization After The Harvest. It will be After The Harvest that will glean many of the Giving Grove orchards in which the fruits have been designated for food pantries.

The spring of 2013 saw the first season of planting for the Giving Grove. Thirteen orchards were installed that season from April to early May. In the summer of 2013, Matt Bunch was hired as the Lead Horticulturist. In fall of 2013, eight new orchards were installed. Spring of 2014 saw 18 new orchards installed, while additional plants were added to three other orchards.

And the future is becoming more fruitful. Our partnership with Liberty Parks and Recreation and the installation of a 16-tree orchard in Ruth Moore Park has led to discussions with many of the Kansas City area parks departments about the possibility of edible tree gardens in many area parks. Our partnership with Heartland Habitat for Humanity now means that many new homeowners will now have fruit trees in their new yards – local food at its best! As it stands now, the current number of plants in the ground will provide, at peak production age, approximately 540,000 servings (180,000 lbs) of fresh, healthy food on an annual basis.

The Giving Grove Board now includes Kevin Birzer, Greg Finkle, Becky Johnston, Ray Makalous, Lisa Ousley, Jill Quigley, Rob Reiman and Ben Sharda.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



A message from Ben Sharda, Executive Director, The Kansas City Community Gardens

As we celebrate our 35th year anniversary, we have a great appreciation for the vision and inspiration of the Metropolitan Lutheran Ministry, and for the Hall Family Foundation, whose key start-up funding allowed KCCG to take root in 1984. Today, we send special thanks to the Parks and Recreation Department of Kansas City, Missouri, as well as numerous area businesses and foundations, which have positioned us to support 1,883 members, 230 community gardens, and 137 schoolyard gardens. In order to properly equip our members and gardeners, we grew and distributed 80,880 plants and made available 38,054 seed packs this past year. That makes for LOTS of healthy vegetables in our community. At a time when the need for food assistance is at record levels, we are honored to play an important role in building self-reliance across a broad base of low income families in our community.

We are also excited about the community's eager embrace of our newest program, The Giving Grove. At present, 19 of our community garden sites have initiated Giving Grove projects at their established gardens. The synergies are abundant! We also have seven new sites that include both vegetable gardening and fruit trees. Thanks to our strong community of gardeners and leaders, and to the coaching and passion of our Giving Grove staff, we celebrate 35 years of serving our gardening community, as well as our first full year of delivering Giving Groves.



A message from Rob Reiman, Director, The Giving Grove Program

It has, indeed, been a banner first fiscal year of establishing edible tree gardens. Our fall 2013 and spring 2014 planting season included 29 project sites, which cumulatively totaled 413 fruit trees, 20 nut trees, and 502 berry plants. Of those projects, 18 were located in Missouri, and 11 were in Kansas. When all of the trees and plants reach their production maturity, the annual production potential will reach approximately 119,000 pounds. And, one of the wonderful aspects of this program is that these fruit and nut trees and berries will keep on giving – year after year. The sustainable nature of this giving is creating what we refer to as community resilience. The lifetime potential for the trees and berries planted this fiscal year is 2,900,000 pounds of healthy produce for food-insecure families in our city. This is an amazing statistic and it's just the beginning.

As I continue to spend time in our urban-core communities, I am also reminded that the real heroes in our city live in these neighborhoods. Countless are the numbers of neighborhood change agents – young and old, seeking grassroots approaches to making a meaningful difference in their neighborhoods for the benefit of others. Relentlessly they give and ask little or nothing in return. The Giving Grove is proud to be part of this 'giving' movement.

As we celebrate our collective achievements, we extend a special note of thanks to you – our stakeholders. Without your generous financial contributions – none of this would be possible.

Thank you.

Ben Sharda, Executive Director, KCCG

Rob Reiman, Executive Director, The Giving Grove

FINANCIALS

The majority of Giving Grove supporters are individuals who become engaged in our “food security” mission through grassroots fundraising efforts.

Just as we emphasize the importance of strong stewardship of each edible tree garden, we also believe in good stewardship of the financial resources that make this program possible. This is why we originally decided to avoid creating a new organization with new “brick and mortar”, and instead, decided to leverage the deep and rich experience of the Kansas City Community Gardens.

OUR FISCAL YEAR IMPACT

October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014 represented our first full 12 month fiscal year. Each fiscal year includes two planting seasons; fall and spring.

This fiscal year, we added 413 fruit trees, 20 nut trees, and 502 berry plants.

Using the Missouri Extension Department production estimates, the lifetime production potential of our combined effort is: **2,900,000** pounds of healthy produce. This also represents 8.3 million lifetime servings based on one-third pound per serving.

FYE - Statement of Activities:

	Oct'13 - Sep'14
Income	
Local Government	15,000.00
Supporting Individuals	76,397.97
Supporting Foundations	58,700.00
Project Partner Contributions	13,806.94
Total Income	163,904.91
Cost of Goods Sold	
Cost of good sold (Trees)	6,961.15
Total COGS	6,961.15
Gross Profit	156,943.76
Expense	
Salaries ¹	115,697.92
Insurance - Employee Health	15,440.52
Payroll and Unemployment Tax	9,650.20
Workers' Compensation Insurance	3,775.29
Simple IRA - Company Match	916.94
Advertising/Publicity/Website	1,116.18
Administrative	4,391.21
Professional Services	1,627.77
Utilities	2,970.00
Staff Development	889.72
Mileage & Parking	1,464.50
Taxes/Licenses/Fees	1,435.00
Meeting Supplies	3,036.62
General Supplies	3,389.55
Gas and Oil	1,070.86
Vehicle Repair	500.00
Insurance - Vehicle	600.00
Garden Construction	3,294.41
Seeds Expense	70.85
Storage Rental	250.00
Total Expense	171,587.54
Net Income	- 14,643.78

*Pre Audited Financials
EOY Cash Balance: \$26,184.04

¹ OUR TEAM ON THE GROUND

We began our official operations on January 1, 2013 with two salaried employees, Rob Reiman as the Executive Director and Ray Makalous as Director of Outreach. Matt Bunch was hired as our Horticulturist on August 15, 2013. Matt brings enormous fruit, berry and nut expertise to our operations. He was responsible for the Powell Gardens' Heartland Harvest Garden from its inception and installation. The Heartland Harvest Garden represents one of the largest edible landscapes in the country. We are delighted to have Matt on board.

BOARD MEMBERS & CORPORATE SPONSORS

The Giving Grove Board adds expertise in marketing, finance, organizational structure, outreach, program and community development with a strong commitment towards strengthening communities through sustainability and stewardship.



Kevin Birzer - Chairman

Kevin is the senior managing director and co-founder of Tortoise Capital Advisors, an investment management firm managing over \$18 Billion in assets.



Greg Finkle

Greg is co-founder of Finkle+Williams, a consulting firm that provides planning, architecture and interior design services throughout the US and abroad.



Becky Johnston

Becky is the VP of Operations at Informed Health Solutions. Becky has over 20 years working with technology products and new business initiatives.



Ray Makalous

Ray spent 37 years in the banking industry. His AmeriCorps VISTA services and his hunger ministry work led him to co-found The Giving Grove.



Lisa Ousley

Lisa is the Executive Director of After The Harvest, an organization that fights hunger by securing fresh produce for food banks and feeding agencies.



Jill Quigley

Jill is a former member of the Kansas House of Representatives serving from 2008 - 2010. She is an active community leader supporting the Rotarians and League of Womens Voters.



Rob Reiman

Rob is the Executive Director at Giving Grove. A retired Deloitte Consultant and devoted environmentalist, Rob is now engaged in environmental and social justice issues.



Ben Sharda

Ben has served as KCCG's Executive Director since 1989 and holds a Bachelor of Horticulture degree from the University of Missouri.

SPONSORS

The Giving Grove is fortunate to have the strong financial backing of numerous organizations, individuals and foundations in our community. We would like to extend our gratitude to the following foundations and organizations who have provided key start-up support for our mission.

Healthcare Foundation of Greater Kansas City

The Healthcare Foundation of Greater Kansas City's mission is to provide leadership, advocacy and resources to eliminate barriers and promote quality health for uninsured and underserved in their service area.

Unified Government of Wyandotte County - Hollywood Casino Grant Fund

In keeping with the intent of Healthy Communities Wyandotte, the focus of the Hollywood Casino Grant Fund is to fund programs that increase knowledge and action toward long-term changes that enable our Wyandotte County community members to eat healthy food and be physically active.

John C. Griswold Foundation

The John C. Griswold Foundation has been actively involved with Kansas City area non-profits for over twenty years. Support of The Giving Grove meets three of the Foundation's missions through engaged giving to the environment, education, and social services.

United Way Foundation

United Way envisions a world where all individuals and families achieve their human potential through education, income stability and healthy lives.

The Mariner Foundation and Affiliates

The Mariner Foundation is an employee-funded Charitable Giving Foundation supporting underprivileged families in communities served by Mariner partner firms across the country. The Foundation is funded through employee donations and dollar-for-dollar matching funds from Mariner.

WHAT WE PLANT - A HORTICULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

In order for each one of these orchards to become a sustainable, reliable source of healthy food, certain steps must be taken.

Creating a Sustainable Orchard

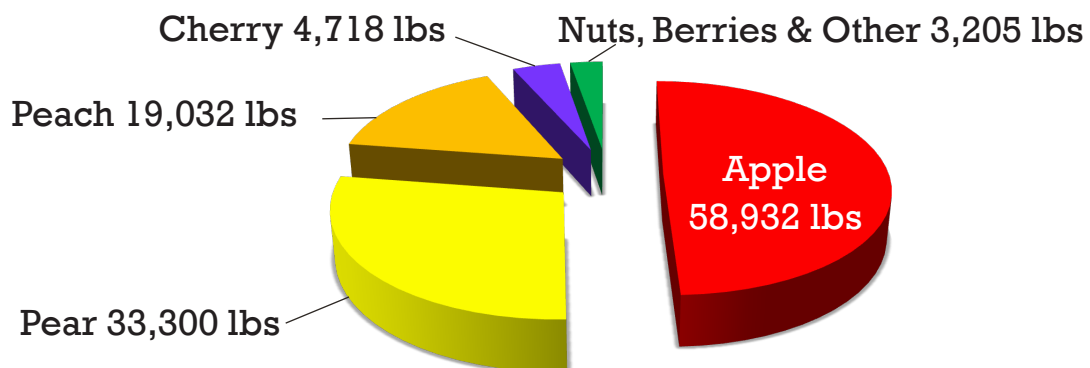
In order for each one of these orchards to become a sustainable, reliable source of healthy food, certain steps must be taken. Before we know the site, or the steward, we must know the plants. Not all fruit trees are suited for our area. There are hundreds of varieties of apple trees, and many dozens of rootstocks that they could be grafted on, but we chose only six varieties of trees on four different rootstocks. We base these selections on the following criteria: 1) Disease Resistance 2) Production 3) Nutritional Profile 4) Flavor 5) Lower Maintenance Requirements, and 6) Storage Life. Why do we do this? We want these trees to grow and produce a substantial amount of fruit. We want the steward and the neighborhood to be successful in providing food for the neighborhood. We don't want this to be a difficult endeavor fraught with disease and insect trouble. In addition to the traditional fruit trees, apples, pears, peaches and cherries, we are also offering some unusual fruits – unusual but very well suited for our climate. Jujubes (Chinese dates) are incredibly drought, insect and disease tolerant, and they provide a wonderfully sweet, crunchy treat at the end of the growing season. Figs, while Mediterranean in origin, produce wonderfully in our area. These fruit trees not only provide food, but they provide education and wonder. Both of these trees are especially well suited for school yard orchards.

The use of dwarfing rootstock is also very important in the design of these orchards. Not only does a dwarf tree take up less space, which is important in small orchard situations, but dwarf trees are also easier to maintain and harvest due to their naturally shorter stature. These attributes are considered when we plant for schools, retirement facilities, or an aging population.

We design some of our orchards with low-maintenance requirements. Where stewardship is less well defined, we offer plants such as serviceberry, bush cherry, goumi, figs, pecans, and others. These plants do not require as much maintenance from a pruning and spraying standpoint. Many of these plants are also considered 'grazing' plants, fruits that you can pop right in your mouth; a snack from nature.

We have added nut trees to our plantings this year. We have three varieties of hazelnut, two varieties of pecan and one variety of hardy almond. Nuts provide an excellent source of protein.

FISCAL YEAR PROJECTED ANNUAL PRODUCE



119,000 Pounds of Healthy Food Annually

SUCCESS STORIES -- FALL 2013



Blue Hills Community Service

The Blue Hills Community Services Business Center and Contractor Incubator building at 5008 Prospect is an example of transforming a blighted building into efficient, usable space. The LEED Gold-certified building features many “green” amenities, such as 48 solar collectors (enough for 10,000kWh of electricity!), and a 6,500 gallon cistern that collects storm water off the roof to be reused in the landscape. The landscape features a 34-raised-bed community garden (managed in partnership with Kansas City Community Gardens) and a micro-orchard that includes 18 fruit trees and raised beds that include blackberries, raspberries, and seven bush cherries. The installation was a partnership that included local neighbors and volunteers from William Jewell College.



Deerbrook Covenant

The Garden of Eatin’ is a church sponsored garden grown for those who need/want fresh fruits and vegetables to supplement their meals. Many of the recipients of the food grown also help tend the garden. The vegetable garden consists of many raised beds, and in ground grapes and blackberries. The edible tree garden includes 20 fruit trees including Asian pears, European pears and apples which were planted by many members of the congregation with the coaching of the Giving Grove.



Cross-Lines Garden

The garden at Cross-Lines Community Outreach, Inc was founded in 2007. In a typical season, they grow about 4,500 lbs of vegetables on just under a quarter-acre plot of land. They also have eight raised beds in addition to the main plot. In October of 2013, the Giving Grove helped plant a 14-tree orchard and strawberry bed. In 2014, a row of raspberries and blackberries was added. Cross-Lines gives away a majority of the produce that they grow at no cost to low income Wyandotte county residents through a Food Pantry program.



Gillis Center

The Gillis Center provides education, emotional support and mentoring to emotionally and behaviorally distressed boys and their families. The Giving Grove at Gillis is part of an outdoor classroom that not only features the fruit trees, but also raised vegetable beds, native plantings, and natural sculptures in a playground type setting. The fruit and vegetables will feed the physical need while the outdoor classroom addresses education and the emotional needs of the students. This edible tree garden includes 18 trees including Asian pears, peaches, cherries, apples, jujubes and a raised bed of blackberries.



Kauffman Community Gardens and Orchard

The Kauffman Foundation looked to the KCCG and the Giving Grove in establishing a raised-bed community garden and orchard. A set of 32 raised beds were installed, followed by 38 fruit trees by the Giving Grove and volunteers from UMKC and Rockhurst University. 28 more vegetable beds, six berry beds and more fruit and nut trees were added spring of 2014. The raised beds have been gardened by neighbors and employees of surrounding businesses. All the fruit is for the community and all excess will be gleaned by After the Harvest. Everything the Giving Grove makes available can be found on this nearly two- acre site along the Brush Creek and Troost Corridors.



Palestine Senior Activity Center

Palestine Senior Activity Center is located in the Palestine/Oak Park neighborhood in KCMO. This center offers its senior patrons a safe, healthy environment including a daily lunch featuring healthy choices and a wellness program. This site includes six raised beds for vegetable gardens and eight fruit trees. The beds and the fruit trees are tended by members of the activity center and the produce goes to the center's patrons. The 8 trees include peaches, cherries, apples, and Asian pears.



Rosedale Community Garden

The South Early Street Garden in Rosedale was established in 2011. Since then, Rosedale Development Association (RDA) has installed raised beds, a trellis, fencing and water tanks. Most recently, the Giving Grove helped to provide and plant five fruit trees. The community garden is tended by neighbors as well as the Rosedale Development Association located down the street. The produce from the orchard will be designated for the neighborhood. This edible tree garden includes apples and Asian pears.



Waterstone Apartments

Waterstone is a large multifamily apartment complex located in Rosedale. The complex advocates a unique community enrichment program designed to foster ongoing education, self-reliance, healthy lifestyles and the idea that "no matter where you find yourself, it is where you are going that matters the most." To that end, the apartment complex has installed six raised community vegetable beds, blackberry and raspberry beds, along with an edible tree garden that includes peaches, apples, Asian pears, and European pears. The produce goes to the gardeners and to the Waterstone community center where it can be purchased by the residents.

SUCCESS STORIES -- SPRING 2014



Bessie's House/Grand Ave. Temple Orchard

This orchard sits on the site of a burned-out Elks Lodge in the Sheffield Neighborhood of Kansas City, MO. Rights to this empty lot were given to Bessie's House, a non profit that provides nutrition, clothing, grooming, and job referral services to the homeless. With help and stewardship of members of the Grand Avenue Temple, this empty lot has become a gathering place for many in the neighborhood. Numerous volunteers from Thrivent Financial Services as well as neighbors donated their time to install this edible tree garden which includes 12 trees: Asian pears, European pears, and apples.



Boys Grow

Boys Grow is a nonprofit providing mentoring, entrepreneurship skills, and positive male role models for inner-city boys ages 12-15. Boys Grow is a year-round farming / business program supporting youth by providing valuable tools while cultivating and selling the products grown. Their mission is to take an inner-city boy and open his eyes to the possibilities and realities of entrepreneurship using farming and agriculture to instill pride, identity, discipline, and business world understanding. On a new farm south of the city, BoysGrow and the Giving Grove partnered to install over 40 fruit trees.



Center Elementary School

Center Elementary serves approximately 300 K-5th grade students in the Center School District in south Kansas City Missouri. The building first served as Center High School when it opened in 1948 and was re-purposed as an elementary school in 1988. The Center Elementary Giving Grove was installed on National Arbor Day in 2014 with the help of students from the Center Alternative School and students from the Elementary. The fruit from these trees will be enjoyed by the students for many years to come. It includes apples, Asian pears, European pears, jujubes and figs.



Fred Burns and Kay Richter

Fred and Kay are transforming their Blue Hills neighborhood one tree at a time. This neighborhood exists on both sides of Bruce R. Watkins Drive, the construction of which left many dead-end streets, vacant properties and blighted land. Fred and Kay have helped organize neighborhood clean-ups, turn an undevelopable property into a native wildlife habitat and planted orchards throughout the Prospect Hill area of Blue Hills. Their edible tree garden includes Asian pears, peaches, apples, and cherries.



Lakeview Village Retirement Community

Lakeview Village is a retirement community based in Lenexa, Kansas. CEO Jamie Frazier is focused on a variety of sustainability initiatives including a partnership with the Giving Grove to add a small grove of fruit trees. These fruit trees will provide healthy food to an on-site preschool program, a low income retirement village and a local food pantry. Residents, in cooperation with the village grounds crew and preschoolers, installed this edible tree garden which includes Asian pears, apples, European pears and four bush cherries.



St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church

St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal's garden has been growing vegetables for the Kansas City Community Kitchen at the Grace and Holy Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Downtown Kansas City, a kitchen that serves 500 hot meals a day. In spring of 2014, the Giving Grove along with volunteers from St. Mary Magdalene planted 12 fruit trees along with raspberries and blackberries - all of which will find their way to the Community Kitchen.



Glanville Towers

Glanville Towers is a retirement facility owned by the Kansas City, Kansas Housing Authority. Kansas City Community Gardens installed eight raised vegetable beds in 2012 which are tended to by the residents. In spring of 2014 the Giving Grove helped install four fruit trees which include apples and Asian pears. Once these trees bear fruit, the produce will go directly to the residents.



Strawberry Hill Neighborhood Garden

Strawberry Hill Neighborhood Garden is a neighborhood association supported community garden located in downtown Kansas City, Kansas, with individual plots for raising vegetables and common herb, flower and fruit plantings tended by member gardeners. Excess produce is given away to neighbors and the Bethel Community Center food bank. This edible tree garden includes peaches, cherries and blackberries.

SUCCESS STORIES -- SPRING 2014



Righteous Roots Garden

Located in the Quindaro neighborhood of Kansas City, KS -- the Righteous Roots garden and orchard is truly a community garden. The lot was vacant for years. In April of 2014, Righteous Roots along with the Giving Grove and many members of the community started to transform this lot into a productive space and gathering spot. The community plans to collect water from an adjoining building and to establish numerous vegetable plots for its residents. A portion of the produce will go to a free medical clinic down the street. This edible tree garden features seven trees, including cherry, apples, Asian pear, and European pear.



Terry and Cathy Matlack

Cathy and Terry Matlack have partnered with the Giving Grove as a way to give back to the community. In spring of 2014, members of St. Paul's United Methodist Church and the Giving Grove helped plant apple trees on their property. All of the produce from their trees will be harvested and directed to local food pantries. This edible tree garden includes two varieties of dwarf apples.



Passport Empowerment

Passport Empowerment is a youth mentoring program of the Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church Resource House (MMBCRH). The program is designed to supplement the academic, self, and civic development of students in transition in the Kansas City Public Schools. Debris and overgrowth from an adjoining property were removed and in May 2014, a small group of volunteers and the Giving Grove installed 12 fruit trees plus a blackberry and raspberry bed. Raised vegetable beds were added by the youth of Passport Empowerment. Future plans may eventually include a small greenhouse.



Police Athletic League Kansas City, MO

The mission of the Police Athletic League (PAL) of the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department is to offer youth the opportunity to interact with police officers in a positive setting while participating in cultural, mentoring and sports programs, with the main emphasis on academics. The East Patrol Division PAL is located in the old KCMO Parks Blue Valley Recreation Center at 18th and White. The center closed in 2000 and was re-purposed by PAL in 2001. PAL has maintained vegetable beds and in the spring of 2014, with the help of the Giving Grove and many local youth and adults, 12 trees were planted including peaches, apples, Asian pears along with raspberries and blackberries.



Red Bridge United Methodist Church

Red Bridge United Methodist Church teamed up with the Giving Grove to install 10 fruit trees that included apples, European pears, Asian pears, and peach. The installation team included volunteers from a local Girl Scout troop and numerous members of the church. All of the produce from this tree garden will go to local food pantries and kitchens.



Liberty -- Ruth Moore Park Community Garden

Ruth Moore Park Community Garden is administered by Liberty Parks and Recreation and in cooperation with the Martha Lafite Thompson Nature Sanctuary. The Sanctuary provides gardening classes for the community while The Ruth Moore Community Garden allows participants to put their gardening skills into action. Participants harvest their produce for personal consumption and give fresh produce to Liberty's Meals on Wheels program and the local senior center. In April of 2014, the Giving Grove helped install 16 fruit trees along with strawberry, raspberry and blackberry beds.



Richardson Community Garden

Richardson Community Garden is on the grounds of a former elementary school which now serves as a teacher training and resource center. The community garden was opened in 2011 by Kansas City Community Gardens and features 42 ground plots and 20 raised beds. Volunteers from Mariner and Tortoise Capital Advisors helped the neighborhood install these 13 trees which include apples, Asian pears, and European pears.



Sheffield Place

The garden at Sheffield Place, a treatment and transitional living program for homeless mothers and their children, provides fresh produce for the 14 families that call Sheffield Place home. The garden grows fruits and vegetables and provides the families with the therapeutic experience of gardening and also increases their familiarity with and willingness to incorporate fresh fruits and vegetables into their diets. In addition, the garden produces fresh herbs that are used in cooking and in the soaps that the mothers make as a part of the compensated work program to build entrepreneurial and employment skills. In the spring of 2014, the Giving Grove helped plant fruit trees to supplement the offerings from the garden.

SUCCESS STORIES -- SPRING 2014



Smithville United Methodist Church

The environmental team at Smithville United Methodist Church provided the leadership to install their Giving Grove edible tree garden. These trees have been uniquely designed to create a border around their outdoor sanctuary. Rain would not deter this planting team. This edible tree garden includes 10 apple trees, and all of the produce will go to local food pantries in the Smithville area.



Turner Community Garden

Turner Community Garden is located on two acres of land owned by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad. The land was previously overgrown and served as an illegal dump site. In 2010, with the help of the Turner Recreation Commission, the Board of Public Utilities and Turner Family Health, a community garden was established, providing an amazing transformation of the land. In 2011, a butterfly and children's garden was added. Guinea hens and laying chickens patrol the area for insects. In May of 2014, 18 fruit trees were added by Turner gardeners with help from the Giving Grove and volunteers from Mariner and Tortoise Capital Advisors.

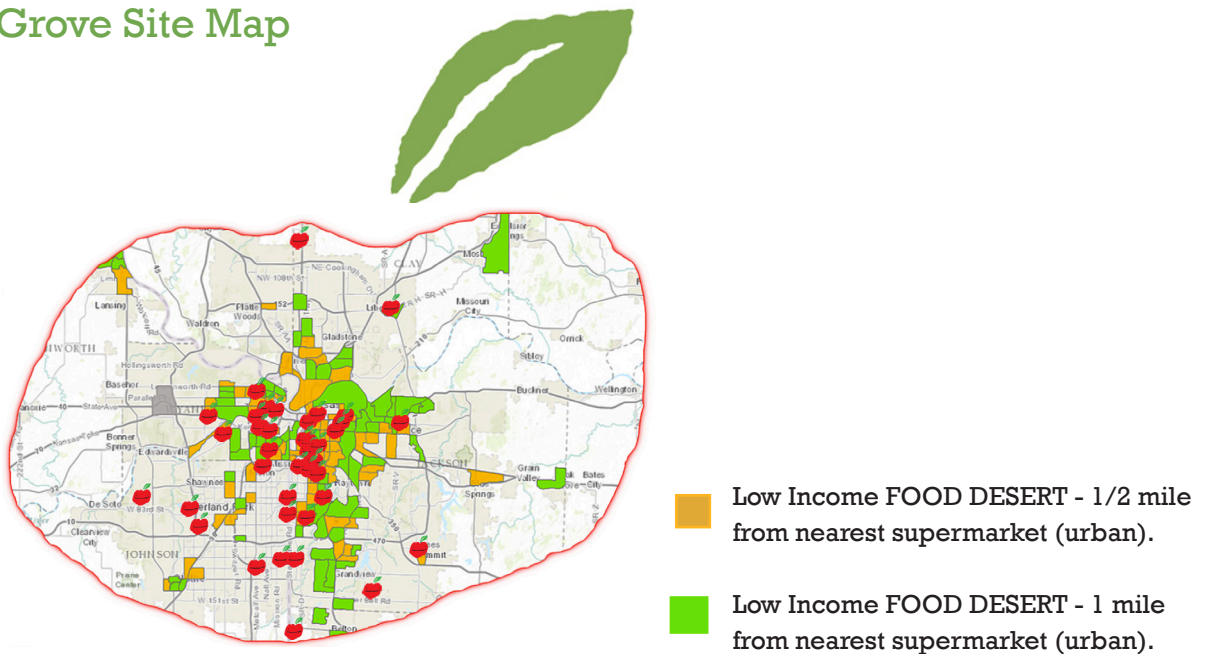
FISCAL YEAR 2014 PROJECT SUMMARY

We installed 29 projects Fiscal Year 2014 in both Missouri and Kansas. Examples of the organizations Giving Grove supported include Schools, Community Development Services, Individual Home Owners, Communities of Faith, Food Pantry/Kitchens, Senior Housing and other Non Profits.

WHERE WE PLANT

From the outset of our visioning workshop in October of 2011, we decided to focus on addressing hunger/nutrition needs across our own metropolitan area recognizing that we have food insecurity in nearly every community.

Giving Grove Site Map



The Giving Grove has now been through three planting seasons and has helped 39 communities in and around Kansas City establish edible tree gardens. By the numbers, there are 25 projects on the Missouri side and 14 on the Kansas side. In Missouri, a majority have been established in Jackson County – 22, with two in Clay County and one in Cass County. In Kansas, 10 are in Wyandotte County, while four are in Johnson County.

Taking a closer look at the communities being served 28 of these orchards are in neighborhoods of need, low-income neighborhoods within or near food deserts. Many of these 28 orchards are located in older urban areas and are not only serving as a food source, but also as a reinvestment in the community.

The remaining 11 orchards have been planted with communities of faith, schools and other non-profits so that the fruit can be harvested and distributed as emergency assistance to food pantries, food banks, and soup kitchens. Often times these orchards have been planted in the surrounding suburbs where resources are not as limited.

OUR STEWARDS AND APPRENTICES

The success of the Giving Grove business model is highly dependent upon the identification and development of stewards and apprentices for each project site. We are humbled by the outpouring of generosity and commitment from our volunteers.

These stewards have signed up to care for their individual micro orchard, providing weekly watering during dry spells, pruning in the late winter, winterizing in the fall, scouting for any problems throughout the growing season and participating in a series of workshops led by The Giving Grove team. The commitment to attend these workshops has been outstanding. We extend our sincere gratitude to our current stewards and apprentices:

Vera Abdallah	Kelly Edmister	Phyllis Kopp	Doug Rogers
Laura Adams	Paul Escareno	Tom Lally	Allison Rozga
Josh Anderson	Larry Ferrell	Sophie Lapp	Brenda Ruppel
Paige Anshutz	Rachel Friesen	Laura Lavallee	Jordan Schiele
Frank Benavidez	Eric Garbison	Larry Lehman	Jessie Schiele
Jhampi Biswa	Rick Gasaway	Alice Lemmons	Joanie Shover
Leigh Blumanthal	John Gorden Jr.	J.D. Mann	Terry Sinclair
Starla Brennan	Shelia Grimmert	Kary Mann	George Skells
Tom A. Brink	Dave Haggard	Clay Marcusen	Janet Snook
Doug Brown	Jackie Hall	Cathy Matlack	Ken Sonnenschein
Theo Bunch	David Hanzlick	Terry Matlack	Paul Soptik
Fred Burns	Sam Harris	Tawnya Metzler	Kelly Stamm
Amy Carr	Amy Hartsfield	Achim Mielke	Susan Stocking
Jackie Carr	Lauren Heidebrecht	Earl Moore	Erin Stryka
Jacob Ceballos	Nick Hockman	Nancy Moylan	Joy Thomas
Ever Ceballos	Sarah Holmes	Matt O'Mally	Stephanie Twigg
Paul Cesare	Calvin Hoover	Francine Nelson	Claudia Vines
Amy Christensen	John Hornbeck	Joe Overstreet	Mitchell Williams
Bradley Deichler	Laura Horn	Jennifer Padberg	Mike Williamsen
Juanita Dominguez	Randy Horn	Elizabeth Petroske	Scott Willoughby
Michael Dominguez	Jim Jarsulic	Nick Pickrell	Chris Wilson
Tiffany Dominguez	Barbara Johnson	Andrew Pollock	Betty Woods
Andrea Dutt	Helen Jones	Matt Pulis	Karen Woods
Suzie Dutton	Susila Jones	Jenny Riggs	Bobby Wright
Alicia Ellingsworth	Andrew Kaplan	Marcus Robinson	Jennifer Wright

Media Coverage

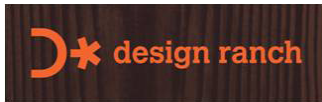
Giving Grove appeared on Fox News 4 twice regarding plantings at both Crosslines and the Police Athletic League, while Channel 41 News attended the Ruth Moore planting. Other noteworthy appearances include Radio 710 and the radio program KC Cares. Publications include Kansas City Star Magazine, Greenability Magazine, First National Publication: Community Investor, Lee's Summit Lifestyle Magazine and the Healthcare Foundation blog. Thank you to all those who took time to report on The Giving Grove.

PARTNERSHIPS

We wouldn't be able to do this without our partners.



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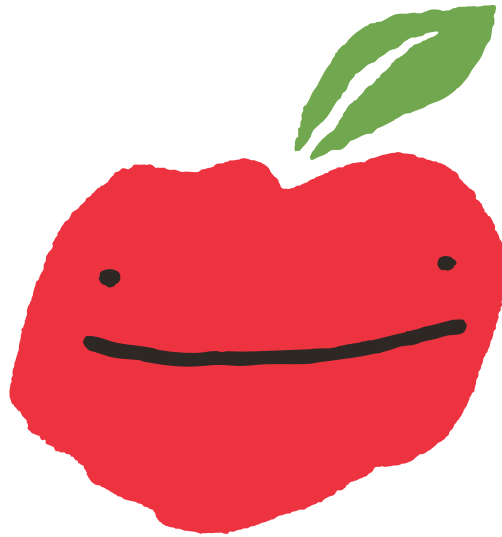


WATCH US GROW

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Facebook: facebook.com/communitytreegardens

Twitter: twitter.com/givinggrove



THE GIVING GROVE 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

A program of the Kansas City Community Gardens

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