

the
**GIVING
GROVE**



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

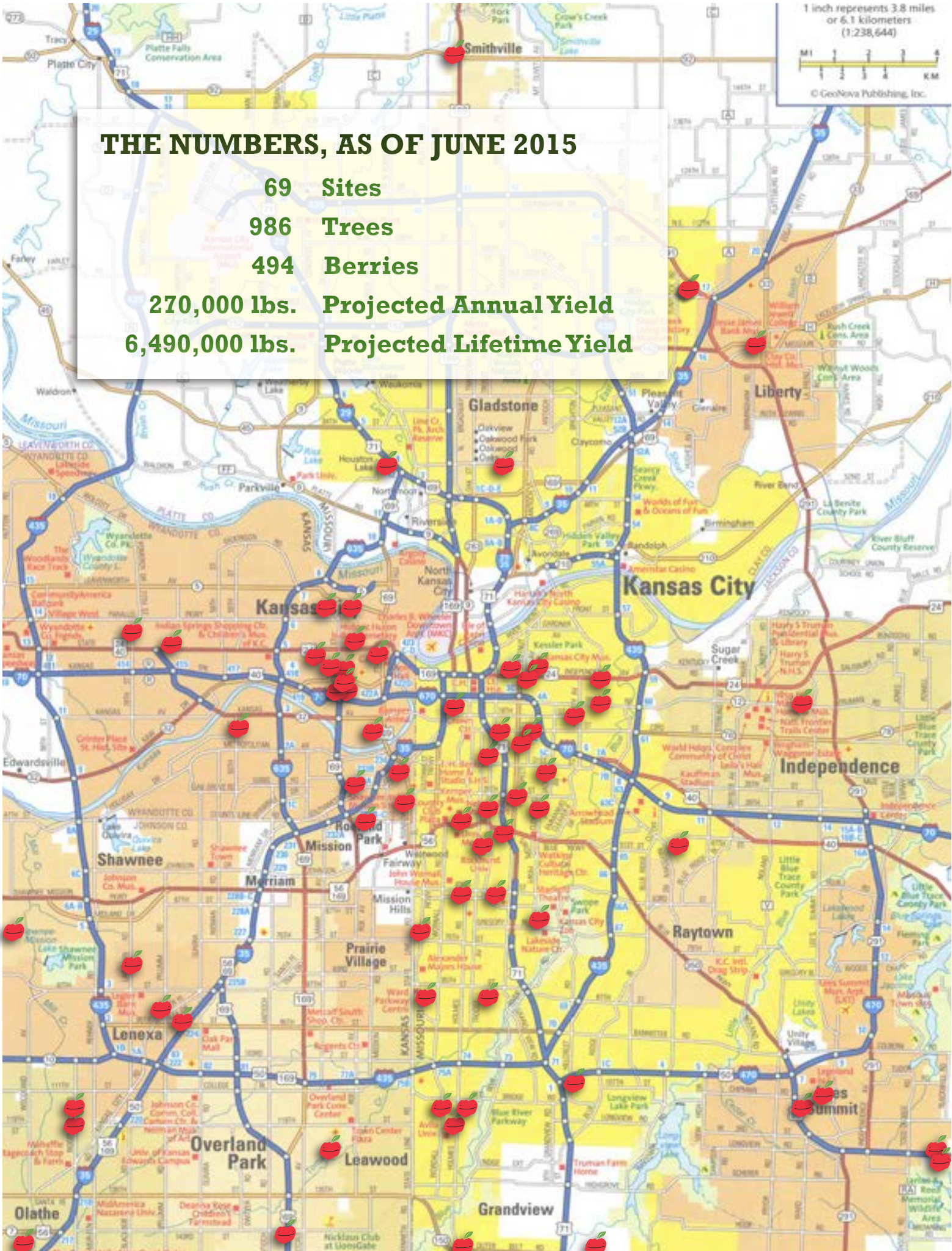
THE NUMBERS, AS OF JUNE 2015

69 Sites
986 Trees
494 Berries
270,000 lbs. Projected Annual Yield
6,490,000 lbs. Projected Lifetime Yield

1 inch represents 3.8 miles
or 6.1 kilometers
(1:238,644)



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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.

“What these amazing people are doing for neighborhoods is absolutely fantastic! They are planting beautiful pear and apple trees, along with a couple cherry bushes, just for the neighborhood! It’s awesome they want everyone to start eating healthier and get involved in caring for these beautiful trees and bushes! The Giving Grove is doing the whole world a favor. This will help our neighborhood grow closer than ever before. Let’s let our hearts grow, while the trees grow with them!” - **CAITLYN GREENLEAF BRISH**

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.

After expanding to a six-person core team and spending a year researching and planning, the founders decided on a model based on four principles:

- community involvement
- orchard stewardship
- sustainable and organic growing practices
- an equitable harvest and sharing with those in need

The edible tree gardens (orchards) would be planted in food deserts, vacant lots, next to food pantries, on school grounds and at communities of faith. Expert advice was sought from horticulturists, farmers, local extension agencies, nutrition experts, community leaders and landscape architects as the idea took shape.

Several important steps followed. In 2012 Rob Reiman was hired as Executive Director and Ray Makalous as Director of Outreach. In 2013 The Giving Grove became an official program of Kansas City Community Gardens, sharing office space and a similar mission. An important partnership was established early on with After the Harvest, a gleaning organization that will collect from many of the orchards designated for food pantries. Other orchards are designed to serve the neighborhoods where they are planted, primarily low income food deserts.

The first 13 Giving Grove orchards were installed in spring 2013, followed by the hiring of Matt Bunch as Lead Horticulturist. More orchards were added that fall and in the following spring. Now each year brings a new series of plantings and partners, including recent arrangements with local city departments and both Heartland and Truman Habitat for Humanity.

Media Coverage

Giving Grove appeared on Fox News 4 highlighting two plantings at Hillcrest and Rosedale Middle School, while Channel 41 News attended Burke Elementary. Other noteworthy appearances include the 4th Annual JCCC Horticultural Sciences Day and the Spring Hill Daffodil Days. Publications include Health Care Foundation Blog, Johnson County Lifestyle Magazine, Kansas City Star, and Greenability Magazine. Thank you to all those who took time to report on The Giving Grove.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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

What an amazing year it's been for gardening in Kansas City. The number of individuals and groups growing healthy food continues to increase, along with the demand for workshops, supplies and other resources that help make their gardens successful.

Something else is growing, too—support from community leaders and local government officials who are stepping up to lend a hand. Cities are responding with innovative programs to assist our mission of encouraging healthier and more self-reliant neighborhoods. Some of these programs are aimed at increasing access to water, like H2O to Grow in Wyandotte County, Kansas, and KC Grow in Kansas City, Missouri. Others aim to make land more accessible to home and community gardeners through the Kansas City Land Bank and Missouri's Urban Agriculture Zones.

In 2013, Kansas City Community Gardens welcomed another new program, the Giving Grove, under its wing. And now, as we near the end of our third full growing season, we can report many new sites that combine both vegetable gardening and fruit trees as well as a strengthened purpose in our mutual goal of growing healthy food and healthy communities.

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



Several years ago we started something big. Because of you—our stakeholders who contribute time and money to continue our plantings, and our stewards who pledge to maintain them—we've kept growing. How fast and how big? Exponential. Next year we expect to see the first fruits of our labor when some of our three-year-old apple and pear trees are ready to be harvested. In our lifetime The Giving Grove orchards and berries planted to date in the Kansas City area should produce more than 6.5 million pounds of produce!

But this organization is not just a source of nutritious fruits and nuts for food pantries and neighborhoods in need. We're also a grower of community, curiosity and connection to nature. When children walking home from school or nearby homeowners or senior living residents see us installing an orchard, they often wander over to ask, "What are you doing?" And when we explain that we're planting food they can gather in the future, they often join us in our task. The economy is stronger than it used to be, but there will be hard times ahead (there always are). By planting orchards we are building resilience. And as people get to know and rely on each other, we are building a true community support system.

Between fall 2014 and spring 2015 The Giving Grove added 29 sites, including 355 fruit and nut trees. We've begun new partnerships with city park departments in Liberty, Lee's Summit, Spring Hill and Kansas City, Missouri, as well as other Johnson County, Kansas, departments. Local schools, communities of faith and many local nonprofits continue to be inspired to join the program. To everyone who is part of this "giving" initiative, 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, 2014 to September 30, 2015 represented our second full 12 month fiscal year. Each fiscal year includes two planting seasons; fall and spring.

This fiscal year, we added 343 fruit trees, 12 nut trees, and 64 berry plants.

Using the Missouri Extension Department production estimates, the annual production potential of this fiscal year is 96,106 pounds of healthy produce or 2,282,567 lifetime pounds.

FYE - Statement of Activities:

	Oct'14 - Sep'15
Income	
Local Government	2,500.00
Supporting Individuals	86,473.57
Supporting Foundations	88,725.90
Supporting Business & Groups	9,655.60
Project Partner Contributions	14,331.99
Total Income	201,687.06
Cost of good sold (Trees)	12,662.96
Gross Profit	189,024.10
Expense	
Salaries ¹	127,453.24
Insurance - Employee Health	15,786.10
Payroll and Unemployment Tax	10,059.99
Workers' Compensation Insurance	3,792.00
Simple IRA - Company Match	1,258.98
Advertising/Publicity/Website	364.88
Administrative	2,647.48
Professional Services	1,366.75
Utilities	3,223.44
Staff Development	300.51
Mileage & Parking	1,279.59
Taxes/Licenses/Fees	82.50
Meeting Supplies	4,560.27
General Supplies	4,381.54
Gas and Oil	1,052.06
Vehicle Repair	510.00
Insurance - Vehicle	612.00
Garden Construction	2,220.48
Fertilizer	1,481.00
Plants	234.51
Storage Rental	250.00
Total Expense	182,917.32
Net Income	\$ 6,106.78

*Pre Audited Financials
EOY Cash Balance: \$33,331.60
Includes only year one of the two year HCF award

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.

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 \$14 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.



Gordon Braun

Gordon is the Managing Director at Protiviti. For the last fourteen years Gordon has been providing internal audit and risk consulting services across several industries.



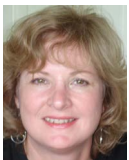
Becky Johnston

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, organizations and families who have provided key financial support for our mission.

John C. Griswold Foundation - The John C. Griswold Foundation has been actively involved with Kansas City area non-profits for over twenty years, through engaged giving to the environment, education, and social services.

Healthcare Foundation of Greater Kansas City - Provides leadership, advocacy and resources to eliminate barriers and promote quality health for uninsured and underserved in their service area.

Kelly Family Foundation - The Kelly Family Foundation's support of the Giving Grove has made a profound impact on improving local food security and has played a key role in the organization's success.

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.

Unified Government of Wyandotte County - Hollywood Casino Grant Fund - Funding 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.

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

Van Trust Real Estate - Offering clients and capital partners a full spectrum of real estate services across commercial product types.

Individual Giving - Special thanks to members of the Giving Grove board and other anonymous donors.

WHAT WE PLANT AND WHY - A HORTICULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

In order for the Giving Grove orchards to be a sustainable, reliable source of food, certain steps must be taken.

Before we know the site or the stewards, we must know the plants. Not all fruit trees are suited for our area. For example, there are hundreds of varieties of apple trees and dozens of rootstocks for grafting, but we chose only six varieties of trees on four different rootstocks. We based these selections on the following criteria, a criteria we apply to all the fruits and nuts we offer:

- climate adaptability
- disease resistance
- nutritional value
- flavor
- low maintenance requirements
- storage life

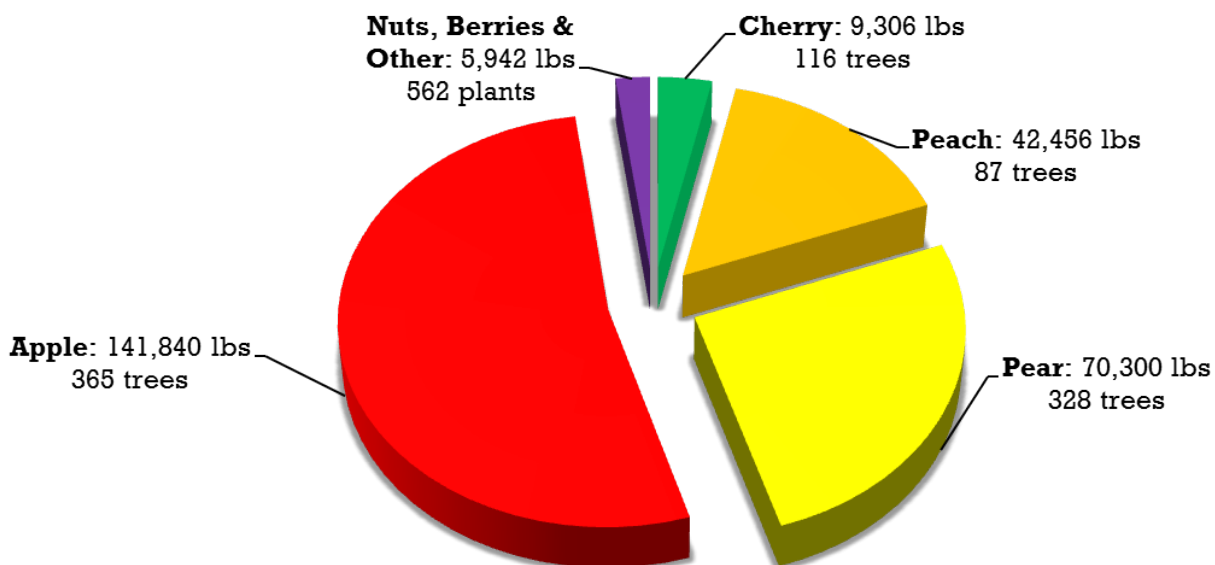
The reason for these criteria is simple—we want the trees to grow and produce a substantial amount of fruit with as little disease and insect trouble as possible.

In addition to traditional apples, pears, peaches and cherries, we offer fruits that are less known 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, also produce well here. These trees not only provide food, but they can be a source of education and wonder; a natural fit for schoolyard orchards.

The use of dwarfing rootstock is also very important. Dwarf trees not only take up less space (a crucial factor for small orchards), but they're easier to maintain and harvest, especially at schools or senior living facilities.

When an orchard needs to be especially low maintenance, we design with plants such as serviceberry, bush cherry, goumi, jujube, and figs. These trees and bushes require less pruning and spraying than others. Many also are considered “grazing” plants with fruits you can pop right into your mouth—a tasty snack from nature.

We have also been adding nut trees to the mix. We have three varieties of hazelnut, three varieties of pecans and a hardy almond, and in 2016 will be adding chestnuts—all excellent sources of protein.



SUCCESS STORIES — FALL 2014



The Asylum (the home for fruits and nuts)

This collection of properties in the Blue Hills neighborhood is considered unfit for housing due to its close proximity to 71 Highway. Through the sponsorship of Blue Hills Community Services the properties were purchased by a local resident and have been turned into an orchard of over 40 fruit and nut trees.



Heartland Habitat for Humanity

In 2014 the Giving Grove partnered with Heartland Habitat to plant fruit trees for those clients interested in including fruit trees in their new yards. By spring 2015 two homes in Wyandotte County and one in Johnson County had been planted with fruit trees. Heartland Habitat serves Wyandotte, Leavenworth and Johnson counties in Kansas and Clay and Platte counties in Missouri.



Hillcrest Transitional Ministries

Hillcrest Transitional Housing offers homeless families, singles and youth a disciplined educational program within a caring, supportive environment. Hillcrest's primary objective is to move clients from homelessness to self-sufficiency within 90 days. The Hillcrest Transitional Housing team—championed by some local high school students from North Kansas City schools—led a project to install four apple trees, six pear trees and several bush cherries at the housing complex located in the Parkdale Walden neighborhood.



Hope United Methodist, Lone Jack

This church garden and orchard can be seen directly off Highway 50 in Lone Jack, Missouri. Since 2009 Hope UMC has been growing a garden that members affectionately refer to as “The Garden of Hope.” Much of the produce and all of the proceeds go to support local charities, especially the food pantry located at Disciples of Christ Church. In fall 2014 the Giving Grove, along with volunteers from the Mariner family of companies, helped members of Hope UMC install 20 fruit trees.



Johnson County, KS, Health Dept. WIC Garden

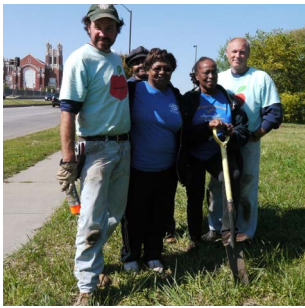
Johnson County Government is committed to improving the health of all Johnson County residents by improving access to healthy foods in the community. This goal is being achieved through administering a WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program and growing a community garden to educate, empower and feed clients in the Kansas WIC program. In fall 2014 WIC added 10 dwarf apple trees and three pear trees to supplement the garden.

SUCCESS STORIES — FALL 2014



Johnson County, KS, Adult Residential Center

The Department of Corrections runs a minimum security detention center designed to reintegrate residential clients into the community as successful, productive citizens. The center features a large vegetable garden tended by the clients. In fall 2014, the center added 20 fruit trees to supplement the garden.



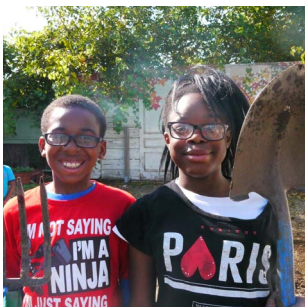
Key Coalition

Directly east off of 71 highway and Linwood sits a formerly empty lot that now serves as a edible pocket garden. On a beautiful October day the Giving Grove with the Key Coalition Neighborhood and volunteers helped install 10 fruit trees. The garden features grazing fruits such as bush cherries, figs and serviceberries. The garden also features bee friendly plants and perennial herb gardens.



Niles Home for Children

Niles Home has been a safe haven for children since 1883. Youth, staff and volunteers work together to plant and harvest a plentiful supply of fresh fruits and vegetables in an organic no-till garden, which is integral to academic instruction and therapeutic intervention. The home also runs the Niles Garden Market to increase community access to low-cost, organically grown foods. In fall of 2014, the Giving Grove added seven fruit trees.



Operation Breakthrough

This large single-site early education child care and social services facility serves over 400 children daily from Kansas City's urban core. The mission of Operation Breakthrough is to help children who are living in poverty develop to their fullest potential by providing a safe, loving and educational environment. In fall 2014 four Asian pear trees, three apple trees and three bush cherries were added to the facility's outdoor classroom for the children's future use.



Red Bridge Neighborhood Association

The Red Bridge neighborhood is located in south Kansas City, Missouri. Throughout the neighborhood there are many traffic islands and landscaped entrances. In fall 2014 the neighborhood association turned one of these traffic islands into a micro-orchard by installing three Asian pear trees.

SUCCESS STORIES — FALL 2014



Ridgeview Senior Living

Many local residents in Ridgeview Village's 65 units are active gardeners who tend 16 raised beds. In fall 2014 the Giving Grove installed five dwarf apple trees, which are maintained by the management team and resident gardeners. These small fruit trees will offer easy access to the gardeners, other residents and visiting family members.



Seton Center

This 46-year-old nonprofit social services organization is located in Kansas City's urban core. Center staff and volunteers provide a food pantry, thrift store, rent and utility assistance, socialization programs for older adults, and dental services. The center began a healthy food initiative by installing eight raised garden beds in early 2014. In the fall 12 Asian pear and apple trees were planted in collaboration with the Giving Grove. All produce from the garden and orchard will be shared with neighbors through food pantry distribution.



Troostwood Garden

This neighborhood garden began in 2000 with a donated lot from Rockhurst University. Troostwood Gardens has since expanded to two city lots with help from the neighborhood. Some produce is sold to cover the cost of the garden, but most is given away to those who work in the garden and to elderly people in the neighborhood. In fall 2014 the Giving Grove added five fruit trees to supplement the produce offerings at Troostwood.



Wyandotte Methodist

In fall 2014 the Giving Grove installed apple, pear and Asian pear trees at this church located in western Wyandotte county. The installation was followed by a Larry Keller Memorial pecan tree planting. The harvest from these trees will be used in the pantry and kitchen of the church.

The fourteen fall 2014 projects included 157 fruit trees, 13 nut and/or other specimen plants (fig, serviceberry, gummi, paw paw and jujube) which are projected to produce 50,802 pounds, based on Missouri Extension estimates.

SUCCESS STORIES — SPRING 2015



Arrowhead Middle School

This middle school serves the western portion of Kansas City, Kansas. In spring 2015, as part of a grant program through Mid-America Nazarene University, participating teachers were asked to engage small groups of children. One particular group of students led by Molly Bachkora elected to research a couple of species of fruit trees. This led to the development of a plan to add a Giving Grove orchard of eight apple and four pear trees near the entrance of the school. The trees are expected to produce almost 3,000 pounds of fruit annually.



Burke Elementary

Located in south Kansas City, Burke Elementary is a part of the Hickman Mills School District. In 2015 Swapnam Kumar, the English as a Second Language teacher, worked with the Giving Grove to install a 12-tree orchard. This orchard helps complement the vegetable beds that the kids have been tending for a few years.



Catholic Charities of NE, Kansas Shalom House

For more than 30 years Shalom House has offered shelter and hospitality to homeless men in Kansas City, Kansas. Originally started as a Catholic Worker House, Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas assumed operation of the house in 2008. Each day Shalom House opens its doors to 25 men of all faiths in need of shelter, food and companionship. In spring 2015 the Giving Grove helped install 15 trees (apples, pears and Asian pears) at the Shalom House.



Catholic Charities of NE, Kansas Office

Founded in 1956, Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas provides a wide range of programs and services to those in need in their 21-county service area. Since 1974 their Emergency Assistance Program has played a significant role in the community's safety net for local families. Services provided meet the immediate, basic survival needs of families with low incomes, and a new emphasis includes "growing your own healthy produce." The Giving Grove helped install three dwarf fruit trees and six bush cherries to serve the clients of Catholic Charities.



Christian Fellowship Baptist Church

In April 2015 the Giving Grove with Kansas City Community Gardens installed six fruit trees, blackberries and five raised vegetable beds on an empty lot owned by Christian Fellowship Baptist Church. The church and its Freedom School's garden club have taken a keen interest in the garden and orchard. The summer students who attend the school will benefit from the berry harvest. In addition, these students will reconnect with nature and healthy food.

SUCCESS STORIES — SPRING 2015



18 Broadway DST Garden

In fall 2008 DST Systems decided to do something special with a block of land located in downtown Kansas City's Crossroads District at 18th Street and Broadway. DST met with planners and designers at 360 Architecture. As the conversation evolved, so did the flow of ideas and the notion that this garden could serve as an environmental showcase and demonstration project designed to donate significant produce to Harvesters. 18 Broadway showcases best practices for water, food, shelter and energy. The Giving Grove has partnered with DST to add espalier apples, jujubes, hazelnuts and bush cherries.



Englewood Baptist Church

For decades Englewood Church in Gladstone, Missouri, has worked hard to help make sure hungry people have food. In fall 2014 a conversation began to find new ways to address issues related to food in the community and the world. From these conversations Englewood recognized the value of a food pantry to provide relief to families or individuals in an emergency. And so a farm came to be. The first phase of a Giving Grove orchard began with the planting of 12 fruit trees and patches of raspberries and blackberries. Future plans include the possibility of adding nuts and another phase of fruit trees.



Hogan Prep Academy

This college preparatory academy aims to develop educated, compassionate, self-motivated leaders who prepare for life-long career options and give back to their community. To that end, the school has installed a local garden and orchard to serve the community. Numerous residents from the area take advantage of the free produce. Hogan Prep High School science students have been involved in the garden since its construction in 2012.



Johnson County, MO, Board of Services

This board provides support, advocacy, funding and coordination to individuals with developmental disabilities, as well as their families, to help enhance their lives, empower their voices and achieve their dreams. With the help of the Giving Grove, the board now has four new fruit trees for its site in Warrensburg.



Kansas City, MO Parks Dept., Harmony Park

Located in the Independence Plaza neighborhood in Northeast KCMO, this park is approximately one square block and features a spray ground and playground equipment. In spring 2015 the Giving Grove, with the help of neighbors and the KCMO Parks Department, planted apples, pears, bush cherries and hazelnuts. The orchard is being cared for by a group of local neighbors.

SUCCESS STORIES -- SPRING 2015



Lee's Summit Woods Playground Park

This site was donated in 1976 by Randy and Mary Beth Woods. Families in the surrounding homes are able to enjoy the feel of their own personal playground in this quarter-acre park located on Little Avenue northwest of downtown Lee's Summit. In spring 2015 five fruit trees and two bush cherries were planted by the Giving Grove and Lee's Summit Parks.



Pleasant Valley Baptist Church

The Garden Ministry began in 2009 with the idea of a free farmers market as a way to benefit the church and the community in a downturned economy. Initially it was furnished with produce from about 50 offsite gardens, but the following year an onsite garden was planted, which is now maintained and harvested by a team of volunteers. The free farmers market is open from the end of June through September on Wednesday and Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings, and serves an average of 150-200 persons a week. The Giving Grove added two beds of raspberries and two beds of blackberries in spring 2015 to supplement the church's market.



Rosedale Middle School

With help from the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' Outdoor Wildlife Learning Site (OWLS) grant, the Giving Grove in spring 2015 helped a group of local residents and middle school students install an edible landscape in the courtyard of Rosedale Middle. The site features a diverse planting comprised of elderberry, jujubes, aronia berry, figs, bush cherries, serviceberry, raspberries, apples and pears.



Shawnee Mission Unitarian Universalist Church

Located in Lenexa, this church the former Don Bonjour Elementary School. A planting by the Giving Grove complements the community garden established by the church in 2014. The edible orchard consists of six apple, six pear trees, two bush cherries, a fig tree, two raised beds of blackberries and raspberries, and a pollinator-friendly flower garden. This project is a cooperative effort of Girl Scout Troops 421 and 806 and church members. The gardens and the orchard serve as part of the church's hunger ministry, with all fruit eventually being donated to food pantries and kitchens serving those in need in the greater KC metro area.



Spring Hill, Kansas Friendship Park

As part of Daffodil Days in late April 2015, the Giving Grove planted six fruit trees in Friendship Park. The orchard will be maintained by local Rotarians, but supported by the local parks and recreation department. The planting was assisted by surrounding neighborhoods and Parks and Recreation staff. Once the trees begin producing, flyers will be distributed to nearby low-income housing, and some fruit may also be delivered to local pantries.

WHO WE SERVE

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.

As of the conclusion of Fiscal year 2014 (September 2015), the Giving Grove has now been through five planting seasons and has helped 69 communities in and around Kansas City establish edible tree gardens. By the numbers, there are 43 projects on the Missouri side and 26 on the Kansas side. In Missouri, a majority have been established in Jackson County – 36, with five in Clay County, one in Cass County and one in Platte county. In Kansas, 17 are in Wyandotte County, while nine are in Johnson County.

Taking a closer look at the communities being served, 50 of these orchards are in neighborhoods of need, low-income neighborhoods within or near food deserts. The remaining 19 orchards have been planted with an understanding 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.

13 Neighborhoods (19%) – Often times, neighborhood associations or a group within a community will sponsor the establishment of a community orchard.

13 Communities of Faith (19%) – Across America faith communities are jumping on the gardening bandwagon. Giving Grove orchards are springing up at communities of faith all over the Kansas City metro area.

10 Schools (14%) – Giving Grove orchards have been installed at elementary, middle and high schools. In some cases, schools which address special needs plan to utilize the orchard as a means of horticultural therapy.

7 Community Gardens (10%) – The existing KCCG community garden community has served as a strong network of orchard opportunities.

5 Food Pantry/Kitchen (7%) – Many food pantries and kitchens have begun reaching out and requesting their own orchard located directly beside the pantry or kitchen facility.

4 Individual Home Owners (6%) – While managed on an exception basis, on some occasions – individual home owners serve as the champion for establishing a neighborhood orchard.

4 Senior Housing (6%) – At low income senior housing facilities, orchards offer a destination remain connected with the outdoors and nature.

4 Municipal Parks (6%) – Given the significant presence of parks across the metropolitan landscape, they represent a unique partnering opportunity to target specific low income and/or blighted neighborhoods.

3 Health or Medical Facilities (4%) – A broad range of health related facilities are jumping on board with the idea of providing free healthy food for patients and/or the neighborhood.

3 Transitional Living (4%) – Most transitional living programs are diligent about fostering self-sufficiency. Gardening and orcharding represents a great tool to offer transitional residents.

3 Youth Services (4%) – Boys Grow is a great example of how teaching young adults how to grow their own can result in moving low income youth out of food insecurity.

FISCAL YEAR 2014 PROJECT SUMMARY

We installed 27 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.

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	Andrea Dutt	James Joerke	Doug Rogers
Laura Adams	Suzie Dutton	Barbara Johnson	Linda Rouse
Josh Anderson	David Earles	Helen Jones	Allison Rozga
Paige Anshutz	Kelly Edmister	Susila Jones	Brenda Ruppel
Molly Bachkora	Alicia Ellingsworth	Andrew Kaplan	Jordan Schiele
Tyler Baker	Paul Escareno	Phyllis Kopp	Jessie Schiele
Neil Bass	Larry Ferrell	Marty Kraft	Joanie Shover
Frank Benavidez	Beau Ford	Swapnam Kumar	Grennan Simms
Jhampi Biswa	Eric Garbison	Tom Lally	Chip Sitzman
Leigh Blumanthal	Rick Gasaway	Sophie Lapp	Terry Sinclair
Ralph Boudreaux	Brandon Gillette	Laura Lavalley	George Skells
Rosemary Boudreaux	Jason Goin	Larry Lehman	Edward/Regina Smith
Starla Brennan	John Gorden Jr.	Alice Lemmons	Janet Snook
Doug Brown	Shelia Grimmett	Brad Lucht	Ken Sonnenschein
Charity Brown-Ritchie	Dave Haggard	Kary Mann	Paul Soptik
Dave Brummel	Jackie Hall	Clay Marcusen	Kelly Stamm
Renee Bryant	David Hanzlick	Doug Martin	Susan Stocking
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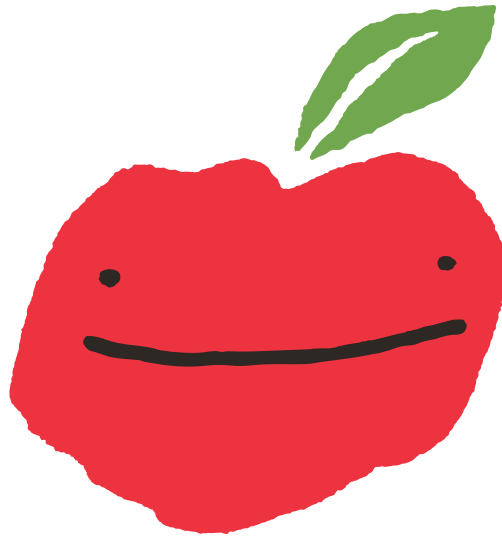
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