

the
**GIVING
GROVE**



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

THE NUMBERS, AS OF JUNE 2016

103

Sites

1502

Trees

668

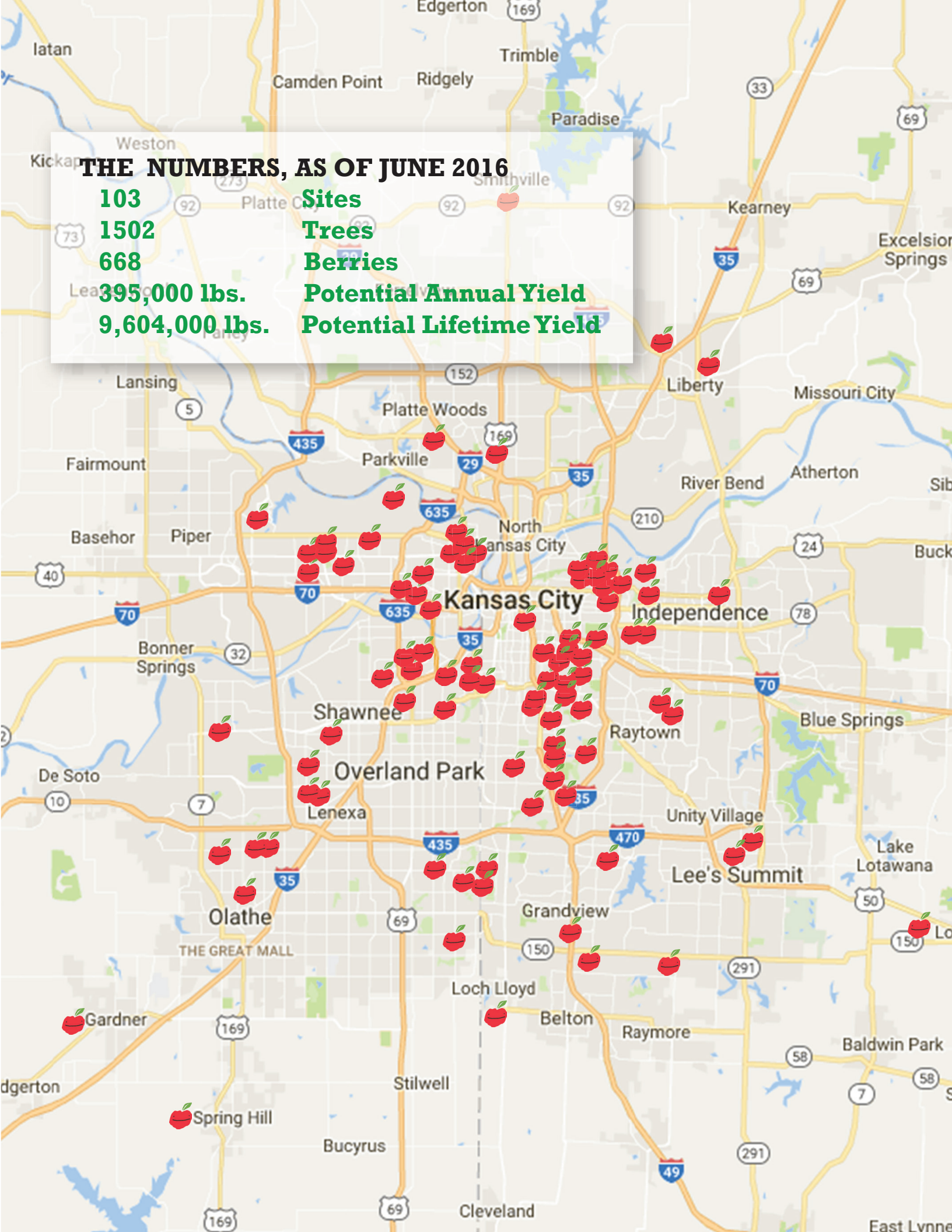
Berries

395,000 lbs.

Potential Annual Yield

9,604,000 lbs.

Potential Lifetime Yield



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.

“I am not a ‘tree guy’, but feel we are all called to help others however we can, sometimes in ways we may not even understand at first. When this idea was first conceived, we had no idea how it would evolve. Although we had a vision and hope, we never dreamed we could make the progress we’ve made toward alleviating hunger and helping to build community, in such a short period of time.” - GREG FINKLE, CO-FOUNDER OF THE GIVING GROVE

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 fruits 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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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

Having been involved in empowering gardeners for over 30 years, I am so excited about the great progress and rapid impact our Giving Grove program is having on our local community. And now that the word is out – we are seeing the demand ramp up. Working together – I am convinced that we can make a huge impact on improving food security in our City.

This summer represented our first year of fruit harvest. Our inaugural orchard sites, the ones that we planted in 2013, were given the green light to allow the fruits to remain on the trees this growing season. So the families living near a Giving Grove orchard began to enjoy neighborhood grown apples and pears, in addition to the berries they have enjoyed since 2014. And wow, did they harvest!

By summer of 2016, we had over 1,500 trees in the ground and we also reached the milestone of installing more than 100 orchard sites. Definitely a year to celebrate!



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

Thanks to the unwavering support of many foundations, individuals and corporations – the premise that a neighborhood can grow, harvest and share fruits from edible tree gardens has now been proven. This summer, we watched children and adults pick their first fruits from a Giving Grove tree – not just the first time this summer, but the first time ever. They often pause just before twisting off their first fruit. Perhaps somewhat in awe, perhaps unsure or even a bit concerned about whether they might harm the tree.

As we celebrate this first year of harvest, we are also celebrating family. From the outset, we envisioned Giving Grove orchards providing important nourishment to families in vulnerable neighborhoods. Four years later, we see individuals and families in the neighborhood working together to care for one another. That's our definition of family.

Though the trees are still young, we see the joy of harvest and new relationships being forged among neighbors who have lived near one another for years. For this – we remain optimistic – that food security for our entire metro area can one day be achieved. That said, we still have much work to do. Join us. Celebrate with us. Volunteer. Give.

Ben Sharda
Executive Director, KCCG

Rob Reiman
Executive Director, The Giving Grove

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 early winter of 2011, the co-founders invited experts in urban agriculture to attend a day-long workshop to explore the idea. Individuals represented Powell Gardens, Cultivate KC, Kansas City Community Gardens, Oregon Sustainable Land Trust, many landscape architecture firms, several hunger relief agencies, and local permaculture experts. The group landed on a unanimous conclusion - empowering underserved neighborhoods to grow their own fruits, berries and nuts would be a viable business proposition.

This initial workshop then led to a year-long vetting process of the business model. A six-person core team decided on a model based on four principles:

- Community involvement, which must include two orchard stewards
- A portfolio of disease resistant fruit, berry and nut cultivars to simplify the orchard maintenance
- Growing practices that are sustainable and organic
- A portion of the harvest is required to be shared with those in need

The edible tree gardens or micro-orchards would vary in size and by types of trees, and would be planted in food deserts, vacant lots, next to food pantries, at Habitat for Humanity homes, on school grounds and at communities of faith.

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 also established early on with After the Harvest, a gleaning organization that will collect from orchards in certain settings, and distribute the produce to food pantries, kitchens and food banks.

As the orchard demand grew, so has the staffing. Matt Bunch leads the horticultural needs of the organization which includes managing a tree nursery, as well as managing the installation of each project. He also serves as coach and mentor to all the community stewards, and is supported by a horticultural assistant, Justin Lark.

As the orchards matured, so has the need to engage the community around each orchard. In fall of 2015, Amanda Lindahl began establishing plans for communications surrounding orchards and organizing events at the various sites including harvest celebrations. Amanda also manages the organization's social media and website activities.

In spring of 2016, Kathy Jenkins Hart joined the team by providing a much needed set of fundraising capabilities.



ROB REIMAN
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR



MATT BUNCH
HORTICULTURIST



AMANDA LINDAHL
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT



KATHY HART
DIRECTOR OF
DEVELOPMENT



JUSTIN LARK
HORTICULTURAL
ASSISTANT

FINANCIALS

Just as we emphasize the importance of strong stewardship for each edible tree garden, we also believe in good stewardship of the financial resources that make this program possible.

Statement of Activities

Year Ended September 30, 2016

Income	
Local Government	5,500
Donor Designations - United Way	11,000
Supporting Individuals and Board members	95,998
Supporting Foundations	196,685
Supporting Businesses and Groups	15,975
Project Site Contributions	16,706
Total Revenues	<u>341,864</u>
Cost of Goods Sold (Trees)	<u>8,329</u>
Total Revenues Less Cost of Trees	<u>333,535</u>
Expenses	
Salary and Benefits - Mgmt, Program, Dev	187,008
Management and General	24,605
Vehicle Expense	2,250
Program Inputs	2,422
Total Expenses	<u>216,285</u>
Net Income - Reserve	<u><u>117,250</u></u>

*Pre Audited Financials
EOY Cash Reserve: \$150,581

BOARD MEMBERS & CORPORATE SPONSORS

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



Kevin Birzer - Chairman
Senior Managing Director and Co-Founder of
Tortoise Capital Advisors



Lisa Ousley
Executive Director of After the Harvest



Gordon Braun
Managing Director at Protiviti



Jill Quigley
Former member of the Kansas House of Representatives serving from 2008 - 2010



Greg Finkle
Co-founder of Finkle+Williams



Rob Reiman
Executive Director at the Giving Grove and
retired partner at Deloitte Consulting



Ray Makalous
Retired after 37 years in the banking industry



Ben Sharda
KCCG Executive Director

SPONSORS

Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City

Unified Government of Wyandotte County

David T. Beals III Charitable Trust

George W. & Ada Heath Ultch Memorial Fund

Kansas Health Foundation

Johnston, Ballweg & Modcrin, L.C.

Harry & Helen M. Rust Foundation

Westport Garden Club

Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation

The Benivity Community Impact Fund

Mariner Foundation

Affinity Charitable Resources

Mariner Wealth Advisors, LLC

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church

Anthem Foundation - Amerigroup

Scouler Foundation

Kelly Family Foundation

Key Bank Foundation

John C. Griswold Foundation

American Century Investments

KCP&L

Missouri Department of Agriculture

The Giving Grove is also thankful for the many individual contributors and volunteers who generously supported us this year.

A HORTICULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

For those of you who have been following us, you know how important the right plant materials are to the success of our program.

The criteria used to choose these plants is based on climate adaptability, disease resistance, nutritional value, lower maintenance requirements, flavor and storage life. There are thousands of varieties of fruit trees that are hardy for our area, but only a fraction of those fit our criteria.

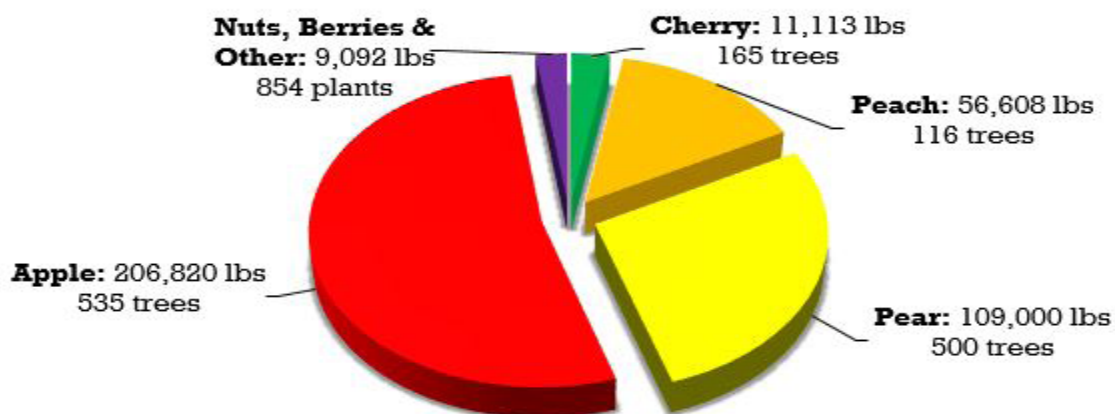
This year has been the first harvest year for our fruit trees, which means it became time to manage insects and other pests. That is why we offer a holistic orchard spray that combines nutrients, natural insecticides and beneficial microbes. Each of our inaugural orchards was treated with this holistic spray, and we believe that while it will not solve all of the fruit pest problems, it has proven helpful in growing healthy trees and fruits.

The growing season started early this year. Peaches were flowering in early March, followed soon by cherries, pears and apples. This early start continued to show its effects as the Carmine Jewel Bush Cherry started ripening in late May, three weeks before a typical growing season. This cherry and others that have been bred by the University of Saskatchewan have now been planted at over 50 of our orchards, with over 150 plants in the ground. Each one of these cherry bushes can produce 20+ pounds of cherries every year once mature! After cherries, it was peaches, and what a great season! Once again, they were early by three weeks or more. The peaches also sized up early due to the very wet May, and benefited from an unusually dry June.

Though the trees remain young, many of our orchards planted in 2013 and early 2014 had very good yields. Most people can agree that nothing beats a fresh peach! Let us not forget about the blackberries. Natchez, the earliest thornless variety for our area, had some berries that were thumb size, and ripened over a 3-week period providing numerous quarts of berries and much happiness. Once peach and blackberry season ended, we entered the season for our early apples and Asian pears. Pristine, the earliest apple we offer, was ripe in some of the orchards by July 4th, 2-3 weeks early. Shinsui, Kosui, and Seuri, our early Asian pear varieties, provided flavorful crisp treats to many neighborhoods this year. The apple and pear harvest continued through October with several late varieties.

It has been a fruitful season. As we grow and the trees grow, we look forward to providing access to nutritious fruits and nuts to many more underserved families and individuals in the years to come.

- MATT BUNCH



CELEBRATING THE COMMUNITY HARVEST

“Community engagement refers to the process ... of building ongoing, permanent relationships for the purpose of applying a collective vision for the benefit of a community.”

In 2013, when the Giving Grove officially launched, it did so with the recognition that the program would one day require us to equip our volunteer stewards and their neighborhood leaders with the tools to assist in community development and engagement, and ultimately – empower residents to lead healthier lifestyles. This would require assistance in organizing neighborhood events including orchard maintenance, fruit thinning, harvesting, and produce distribution. We also envisioned our stewards assisting with food preparation demonstrations.

For the past year now, Amanda Lindahl has been busy fulfilling this role as the Giving Grove Community Engagement Coordinator. This season we were delighted to experience the harvest with many of our inaugural 2013 orchards, with stewards and community members surrounding the orchard sites.

The harvesting of fruits and berries works differently among our various neighborhood Giving Grove orchards:

- A common harvest approach can be characterized as a “you-pick” method, making the fruit available for neighbors to pick on their own. In order to help the community recognize when the fruit is ready for picking, Amanda has been working with stewards to create signage for individual tree varieties. In addition, we have some stewards placing large yellow ribbons on trees that are ready for picking. Our stewards have reported that this strategy has made a big impact on helping ensure that fruit reaches optimal ripeness before being picked.
- Some sites have implemented harvest celebrations as a means to gather the community in the orchard during harvest time. These celebrations typically include orchard tours, sharing of produce, lots of mingling among neighbors and sometimes even some orchard maintenance. In other cases, these events include a welcomed hot meal to supplement the fruit for dessert.
- When the orchard sites do not directly serve vulnerable neighborhoods, the fruit needs to be harvested and delivered to food pantries, kitchens and/or food banks. In these cases, our orchard stewards schedule “gleanings” – whereby volunteers commit to harvesting the fruit, packaging the harvest for distribution, and delivering the containerized produce to the local operations that manage the distribution. These sites often represent our best means for weighing the harvest, so that we might one day refine our estimates of potential production.

Currently, with 1,502 trees planted, our projected annual harvest is over 395,000 pounds of fresh healthy fruits, nuts, and berries. This estimation is based on University of Missouri Extension data. This data may be difficult to imagine, but we have seen actual berry harvests significantly exceed the estimated production quantities. At one of our gleaned sites, the blackberry harvest was 67.4 pounds from a 48-foot raised bed. This represents more than twice our projected harvest amount. Blackberries are an excellent source of vitamins and minerals, full of antioxidants, and often a rare find at food pantries. We also had one of our gleaning sites register 118 pounds of fruit. That represents about 12 peck baskets loaded with fruit including apples, pears and Asian pears.

It’s been a year of joy celebrating the harvest with the stewards and community members at our inaugural orchards. Overall, the Giving Grove staff is excited about the successes of our orchard partners. We look forward to continuing the tradition of planting, caring, coaching, and enjoying the harvest with our Kansas City community.

- AMANDA LINDAHL

SUCCESS STORIES — FALL 2015



Avila University

Students, volunteers and Giving Grove team members planted the orchard on the campus in fall of 2015 beside a community garden. It contains four Asian pear, four European pear, and four apple trees. The purpose of the orchard is to provide fruit that may be distributed to local fresh food pantries, which will help in the mission to serve neighbors in our community.



Central Middle School

Central Middle School in Kansas City Missouri seeks excellence in all areas by providing rigorous academics, developing leaders, fostering creativity, and empowering students with the essential skills to navigate the 21st century. This orchard, planted by science students, contains four apple and four European pear trees.



Dave's Place

Dave's Place is a location for families and individuals that struggle with the weight of relationship stress, emotional discomfort, loss, and life transitions. The orchard assists in providing a means of nourishment for both nutrition and emotional healing. This backyard neighborhood orchard sponsored by Christian Fellowship Baptist Church contains five European pear trees, two Asian pear trees, four apple trees and a blackberry bed.



Evangel Spiritual Temple

E.S.T. Community Orchard was planted to serve a need in the community for fresh fruit. In conjunction with the community garden located onsite, the orchard will provide fresh fruit for families in the area. The E.S.T. community's goal is to feed at minimum 20 families, and as the harvest increases, to feed more. The need is great in the surrounding neighborhoods, and the congregation plans to transform the area from a food desert into a place where hunger is scarce and families have access to plenty of fresh food.



Harmon High School

This orchard is part of the Harmon Outdoor Wildlife Learning Site (HOWLS), which includes a prairie, a wetland and other wildlife habitats. The trees, however, are intended as a source of nutrition for humans, particularly those who come to the school each month for food assistance. Environmental science students worked with volunteers from Microsoft to plant two jujube, five pear and four apple trees in the fall of 2015 and hope to plant more in the future.

SUCCESS STORIES — FALL 2015



Indian Mound

The 5415 Garden is a community garden managed by the Indian Mound Neighborhood Association. Over the past five years, neighborhood gardeners have transformed the site from a trash-filled vacant lot into a productive space with 15 raised garden beds. In the fall of 2015, the community partnered with The Giving Grove to plant three Asian pear trees, three apple trees, and two bush cherries. Stewards look forward to harvesting the fruit from these trees in the coming years and sharing the harvest with neighbors.



Kansas City Kansas Community College

This campus orchard is located beside the college's vegetable garden. The orchard includes three Asian pears trees, four apple trees, three European pear trees, and three bush cherry shrubs. Stewards plan to give at least half of the fruit that the grove will bear to students in need. Wyandotte County has a higher food insecurity rate than the Kansas average, making the orchard especially important for Wyandotte residents to access nutritious food. The trees will also help absorb stormwater, prevent erosion, and sequester carbon into the soil, reducing the college's carbon footprint.



Lone Elm Community Garden

Located at Christ Community Church of the Nazarene in northwest Olathe, the Lone Elm Community Garden creates a place for families, groups, and individuals to come and experience the miracle of gardening in an inviting environment. The congregations's goal is to connect community members to the earth and to each other through gardening, hospitality, and education. The Giving Grove helped expand the garden to include an orchard consisting of nine trees (apples, pears, and Asian pears) and two bush cherries. The congregation donates produce from the garden to several food pantries in the area.



Longfellow Farm

A project of Longfellow Community Association, Longfellow Farm grows vegetables, fruits, and herbs to feed the neighborhood. Neighbors work together to grow, distribute, and preserve the harvest, while learning and sharing ways to make Longfellow more food secure, vibrant, sustainable, and healthy. All neighbors are welcome to join in growing healthy and delicious food together. Longfellow Farm was established in April of 2015, and the Giving Grove orchard was planted in the fall of 2016. It contains 14 trees, including jujube, Asian pear, European pear, and apple as well as four bush cherry shrubs and a blackberry bed.



Kansas City, MO Lykins Square Park

This planting continues a key Giving Grove partnership with the Kansas City, Missouri Department of Parks and Recreation, who provides land and water for growing community orchards. Stewarded by the Lykins Neighborhood Association President, this orchard contains three European pear trees, four Asian pear trees, five apple trees and three bush cherry shrubs.

SUCCESS STORIES — FALL 2015



Olathe Bible Church

The Olathe Bible Church garden, referred to as Root 151, is a community garden and orchard that connects members of Olathe Bible Church with the extended community as well as non-profit organizations in the area. Individuals, couples, families and groups are invited to lease a plot to garden. The harvest is shared - gardeners keeping a portion, and a portion being donated to help those in our community who are in need. The Giving Grove orchard planted in Fall 2015 added two European pear, four apple, and two Asian pear trees to an existing planting of three pears and three apple trees.



Olathe North Walnut Park

The Giving Grove partnered with the Olathe Parks and Recreation Department to identify an appropriate park with water access for an orchard planting. Two interested stewards agreed to maintain the orchard for the use of the park community. The orchard contains six apple trees, four European pear trees, and three jujube trees.



Peery Apartments

Peery Apartments is operated by the Missouri Department of Mental Health (DMH), under the guidance of the Center for Behavioral Medicine / Alternative Services. They've planted one apple tree, two Asian pear trees, two bush cherry shrubs, and a raised bed of raspberries, in addition to a thriving garden area. The goal of this project is to teach current clients how to develop and care for self-sustaining food sources. Clients are learning how to grow fresh food and will have the ongoing opportunity to share produce and fruits with other DMH facilities and area community food banks.



Richardson Early Learning Community School

The Kansas City Public Schools' Richardson ELC has partnered with The Giving Grove and Kansas City Community Gardens since opening in 2014. Children and teachers integrate learning about food as part of science exploration curriculum. As the grove of trees matures, children will use the produce in the classrooms and take home food to share with their families.



Ronald McDonald House

Established in 2015, the first phase of planting included three varieties of hazelnuts, three apple and three Asian pear trees. In the years to come the grove will serve as a source of nourishment as well as a therapeutic outlet for families away from the long hours inside hospitals and medical facilities. Staff at the Ronald McDonald House are very excited for the trees to blossom into beautiful fruit bearing trees.

SUCCESS STORIES — FALL 2015 / SPRING 2016



Woodland Early Learning Community School

The Kansas City Public Schools' Woodland ELC is now supporting a mini orchard for children and families in the historic Northeast community. The orchard, located at 711 Woodland Avenue, is a source of fresh fruits and nuts for the 300 families the school serves as well as the surrounding community. The community is excited to partner with the Giving Grove and looks forward to expanding the orchard program in the future.



Bethel Orchard

Volunteers from the congregation of Journey Church worked alongside the Giving Grove to plant this orchard at the Dolinar Farm in western Wyandotte County. The orchard includes five peach trees, two European pears, and six apple trees.



Benton Community Garden

This unique site, located at the corner of Benton Boulevard and Linwood Boulevard, is utilized by schoolyard gardeners from Hope Leadership Academy, as well as neighborhood gardeners. The orchard consists of two pawpaw, a hybrid almond tree, three European pear, two bush cherry, and two existing apple trees. Community members worked with The Giving Grove staff to add a butterfly garden to attract beneficial pollinators.



Butcher Greene Elementary School

Located in Grandview, Missouri, Butcher Greene Elementary made some impressive campus improvements in spring of 2016. The fourth grade classes worked to plant 11 fruit trees including apple, European pear, Asian pear and jujube. Students worked with Giving Grove staff to construct a raised bed of raspberries and a pollinator garden. These efforts enhance the Schoolyard Garden that KCCG staff installed, serving as an outdoor classroom for students. Educators plan to develop standards-based lessons using the orchard as a foundation, encouraging children to play and work outdoors while exploring nature.



Center City

This neighborhood, located at 34th & Forest in Kansas City, Missouri, is a wonderful example of neighbors coming together to create a community growing space. Individuals can rent raised beds and participate in growing potatoes and sweet potatoes in a dedicated space. The trees are planted on a community berm – a permaculture feature that collects rainwater, prevents erosion, and offers other environmental and soil benefits. A Giving Grove addition including raspberries, clove currants, pawpaw, bush cherries, hazelnuts, and espaliered dwarf apple trees creates a living fence in this highly trafficked pedestrian area.

SUCCESS STORIES — SPRING 2016



Fisher Park

The Rosedale Development Association (RDA) received a grant from the Unified Government of Wyandotte County's Stormwater Quality Education Grant Program to plant a Giving Grove in Fisher Park in Kansas City, Kansas. The orchard will help RDA achieve its goals of increasing access to healthy food and providing safe spaces for physical activity, while beautifying Fisher Park and bringing more people to the park.



Gardner Community Garden

The Gardner Community Garden planted fruit trees in 2015 to complement the garden's vegetable production as a way to give back to the community and provide food to those in need. The Giving Grove team was delighted to add the site to our list of community partner sites in spring of 2016. Currently, the orchard contains four peach, three apricot, six plum, four cherry, 12 pears, and 26 apple trees.



Hillview Church of God

The Hillview Children's Center, located at Hillview Church of God in Kansas City, Kansas, provides a healthy environment for students, complete with a Schoolyard Garden and a Giving Grove orchard. The site contains four raised beds for growing vegetables and now has added a raised bed of raspberries, a bed of strawberries and a pollinator garden featuring a variety of insectary plants. In addition, the orchard contains three European pear, three Asian pear, three apple, and two jujube trees.



ICNA Relief USA (Islamic Circle of North America)

At a women and children's shelter in Raytown, Missouri, ICNA added a large edible landscape including a Giving Grove orchard and a raised bed vegetable garden. The orchard consists of four apple, four European pear, three hazelnuts, two jujube trees, a hybrid peach almond tree, one fig and one bush cherry. In addition, Giving Grove and other KCCG staff worked alongside community volunteers to add raised beds of strawberries and raspberries with another for insectary plants.



Immanuel Manor Apartments

Sponsored by Blue Hills Community Services, this orchard provides healthy food access for the residents as part of a community garden at Immanuel Manor. One European pear, two Asian pear, two dwarf apple trees, a bush cherry, and a raised bed filled with strawberries complete the existing raised bed vegetable production. The residents recently constructed a beautiful new shelter and gathering space to enjoy their healthy harvests together.

SUCCESS STORIES -- SPRING 2016



Kansas City University of Medicine & Biosciences

KCU celebrated 100 years by partnering with The Giving Grove to invest in planting fruit trees. The orchard on KCU's campus will provide an ongoing food source to residents of Kansas City's historic Northeast neighborhood. KCU has had a thriving community garden in place since 2008, and the University donates 100% of produce back to the neighborhood. The orchard trees will offer the University the opportunity to continue to engage elementary students from Della Lamb and Scuola Vita Nuova Charter School in the care and harvest of the trees, and will provide a source of healthy produce to share among friends and neighbors.



Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

Congregants joined together to fund the planting of two apple trees in 2015. In spring of 2016, the Church added four apple trees to provide fresh fruit for its Saturday morning breakfast ministry. The breakfast attracts an average of 50 people for fellowship and good food each week.



Morning Star Community Garden

Deacon Sammy Howell established the community gardens at Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church several years ago with support from congregation and community leaders, as well as from Kansas City Community Gardens. Congregation members give away produce harvested from the garden to anyone in need in the neighborhood, as well as to the Morning Star food pantry. Giving Grove staff and community volunteers added six fruit trees to the garden, including two peach, two apple, and two European pear trees.



Olathe South High School

The Environmental Science and Horticulture classes, as well as the Green Team, at Olathe South are working together to develop a Campus Farm. The new Giving Grove orchard consists of two jujube, two European pear, two Asian pear trees, two bush cherry, one fig tree, and six raspberry plants. The goals of the Campus Farm are to provide opportunities for students to learn about sustainable agriculture and energy through hands-on participation and help provide food to families in need in the community.



Pendleton Heights

The members of the Pendleton Heights Neighborhood Association demonstrated their deep sense of community pride by expanding an existing neighborhood orchard. The orchard is another way that Pendleton Heights community members are reconnecting and revitalizing the historic neighborhood, while producing fresh food for neighbors. The spring 2016 Giving Grove addition includes four European and Asian pear, four apple, two jujube, three pawpaw, and a bush cherry, enhancing the existing orchard of six peach, two plum, two pear, and a cherry tree.

SUCCESS STORIES -- SPRING 2016



Schlagle High School

Located in Kansas City, Kansas, Schlagle High School science students worked together to enhance an existing vegetable garden by adding a Giving Grove orchard. They have six apple, three European pear, three Asian pear, and two jujube trees.



State Street Project

A collaboration between the State Street Project, Young Women on the Move, Communities Creating Opportunities, Paraclete Strategies Inc., the Eric Berry Foundation, My Neighbor's Keeper, The Giving Grove, and Kansas City Community Gardens – this new orchard and youth garden is bringing neighbors together for a healthier Kansas City, Kansas. The orchard includes five apple, four Asian pear, four European pear, two fig trees, and two bush cherry, in addition to 60 strawberry plants and 18 blackberry and raspberry bushes. Additionally, the site contains raised beds for vegetable production.



Stony Point North Elementary

A neighborhood school in Kansas City, Kansas with a very active Parent Teacher Association (PTA) group came together to add a Giving Grove to an established Schoolyard Garden. The orchard includes three apple, three Asian pear, three European pear, and two jujube trees. It also includes a raised bed for raspberries and another for pollinator plants.



Sumner Academy of Integrated Arts & Sciences

Sumner Academy leaders envision the school's Giving Grove orchard teaching students to enjoy fresh fruit while teaching them about food production and land stewardship. This orchard contains four dwarf apple, three pear, and three jujube trees. Students and volunteers established the orchard with support from Giving Grove staff and in collaboration with neighbors from the nearby Turtle Hill Community Association.



Truman Heritage Habitat for Humanity

In 2016, the Giving Grove partnered with Truman Heritage Habitat to offer fruit trees and a raised vegetable bed for those homeowners interested in growing food in their new backyards. Giving Grove staff were delighted to plant two fruit trees at two new home sites in spring 2016, with plans to add more trees at Habitat homes in the future.

WHO WE SERVE

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

As of the conclusion of Fiscal Year 2016 (September 30, 2016), The Giving Grove has now been through seven planting seasons and has helped 103 communities in and around Kansas City establish edible tree gardens. By the numbers, there are 63 projects on the Missouri side and 40 on the Kansas side. In Missouri, a majority have been established in Jackson County – 56, with four in Clay County, one in Cass County, one in Johnson County, and one in Platte County. In Kansas, 25 are in Wyandotte County, while 15 are in Johnson County.

Taking a closer look at the communities being served, 60 of these orchards are in neighborhoods of need, low-income neighborhoods within or near food deserts. The remaining 23 orchards have been planted with an understanding that the fruit will be harvested and distributed as emergency assistance to food pantries, food banks, and soup kitchens. Often, these orchards have been planted in the surrounding suburbs where resources are not as limited.

23 Schools (22%) – Giving Grove orchards have been installed at elementary, middle and high schools. In some cases, schools which address special needs plan to utilize their orchard as a means of horticultural therapy.

17 Communities of Faith (17%) – 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.

14 Neighborhoods (14%) – Often, neighborhood associations or a group within a community will sponsor the establishment of a community orchard.

11 Community Gardens (11%) – The existing KCCG community garden community has served as a strong network of orchard opportunities.

11 Municipal Parks (11%) – 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.

6 Food Pantry/Kitchen (6%) – Many food pantries and kitchens have begun reaching out and requesting their own orchard located directly beside the pantry or kitchen facility.

5 Individual Home Owners (5%) – While managed on an exception basis, on some occasions – individual home owners serve as the champion for establishing a neighborhood orchard.

5 Senior Housing (5%) – At low-income senior housing facilities, orchards offer a destination to remain connected with the outdoors and nature.

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

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

3 Health or Medical Facilities (3%) – 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.

OUR STEWARDS AND APPRENTICES

The success of the Giving Grove business model is highly dependent upon identifying and developing 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 our team - among many other tasks. We extend our sincere gratitude to our dedicated stewards and apprentices:

Vera Abdallah
Laura Adams
Stephanie Alderman Oler
Josh Anderson
Tammy Anderson
Paige Anschutz
David Armstrong
Molly Bachkora
Tyler Baker
Neil Bass
Travis Baum
Stacee Bayha
Frank Benavidez
David Bennett
Jhampi Biswa
Leigh Blumenthal
Ralph Boudreaux
Rosemary Boudreaux
Brian Boutte
Liz Bradish
Starla Brennan
Doug Brown
Charity Brown-Ritchie
Kimberly Brown
Dave Brummel
Renee Bryant
Mark Buhlig
Theo Bunch
Fred Burns
Timothy Buster
Cathy Bylinowski
LaDonna Campbell
Dr. Michael Camp
Amy Carr

Jackie Carr
Danielle Cathey
Nancy Chapman
Brooke Chestnut
Amy Christensen
Chris Clemmons
Julie Coon
Creighton Cox
Mona Cozart-Dean
Samantha Dane
Ernie Davidson
Bradley Deichler
Jennifer Dennis
Cassie Dolinar
Michael & Juanita Dominguez
Tiffany Dominguez
Kim Dominic
Andrea Dutt
Suzie Dutton
David Earls
Paul Escavaria
Nadine Farris
Larry Ferrell
Beau Ford
Dennis (Rosco) Foster
Ami Freeberg
Eric Garbison
Ron Garrette
Toni Gatlin
John Gerant
John Gorden Jr.
Shelia Grimmett
Duke & Joann Guggenheim
Dave Haggard

Jackie Hall
David Hanzlick
Leslie Hardin
Dustin Hardison
Cliff Harper
Amy Hartsfield
Michael Hasselbach
Nick Hockman
Kendra Hogan
Sarah Holmes
Chris Homiak
Calvin Hoover
Laura Horn
Randy Horn
April Hudson
Peter Hughes
Eddie James
Jim Jarsulic
Ron Jim
Melissa Jobe
James Joerke
Barbara Johnson
Rosie Johnson
Helen Jones
Andrew Kaplan
Jerry Kitzi
Rebecca Koop
Phyllis Kopp
Marty Kraft
Swapnam Kumar
Julie Leach
Larry Lehman
Alice Lemmons
Brad Lucht

OUR STEWARDS AND APPRENTICES



Our Community Engagement Coordinator, Amanda Lindahl, organized our first annual steward celebration event. In keeping with the Giving Grove mission, the steward volunteers shared their favorite side dishes in a potluck meal.

Caleb Madison
Penny Mahon
Kary Mann
Clay Marcusen
Doug Martin
Jane Martin
Cathy Matlack
Terry Matlack
Lenora Matters
Wes McCoy
Armond McDonald
Annette McDonald
Kevin Mendoza
Tawnya Metzler
Kirk Miles
Tamra Miller
Charles Monnott
Leigh Ann Monthey
Michael Monthey
Earl Moore
Randy Mosier
Ed Muntz
Michaela Neal
Jim Needham
Francine Nelson
Charlene Nicholson
Shannon North
David Ordonio
Joe Overstreet
Jennifer Padberg
Lance Page
Andrew Pollock
Teri Pope
Don Reck

Graham Rees
Kay Richter
Danielle Robinson
Melinda Robnett
Doug Rogers
Linda Rouse
Allison Rozga
Chris & Lori Scassellati
Jordan Schiele
Jessie Schiele
Marshall Scott
Kelly Seiler
Sara Selkirk
Joanie Shover
Dave Shuck
Grennan Simms
Dianna Sinni
Chip Sitzman
Terry Sinclair
George Skells
Alaa Smeel
Bethann Smith
Curtis Smith
Phyllis Smith
Edward/Regina Smith
Janet Snook
Ken Sonnenschein
Gerry Soptick
Paul & Rita Soptick
Rick Spurgeon
Susan Stocking
Kelly Strother
Erin Stryka
Ken Sturm

Nina Tali
Michelle Tannehill
Naomi Taylor
Joy Thomas
Deborah Thompson
Mata Townsend
Steven Tucker
Stephanie Twigg
Tom Tysver
Claudia Vines
Jordan Wagge
Meredith Walrafen
Micah Waters
Mike Webb
Pam Western
Devin Wetzell
Dexter White
Jenna Wilkins
Christine Williams
Helen Williams
Scott Willoughby
Chris Wilson
Gladys Wilson
Jeff Witters
Argelia Woods
Betty Woods
Karen Woods
Bobby Wright
Mary Wright
Tyler Young

GETTING INVOLVED

LEARN MORE

Visit givinggrove.org to learn more and follow, share and retweet Giving Grove on social media.

Facebook: facebook.com/communitytreegardens

Twitter: twitter.com/givinggrove

Instagram: Instagram.com/givinggrove

TAKE ACTION

Volunteer to support a neighborhood orchard installation by selecting 'Get Involved' at givinggrove.org.

DONATE TODAY

Donate a tree or orchard by visiting givinggrove.org.



PLANNED GIVING

“We plant trees not for ourselves, but for future generations.”

-Caecilius Statius, 220-168 B.C.

Help us to plant fruit and nut trees for future generations, ensuring that those who follow us can enjoy the harvest of a Giving Grove community orchard for many years to come. Planned giving can be as simple as naming The Giving Grove as a beneficiary of your will, IRA or life insurance policy.

As a program of Kansas City Community Gardens, our Tax ID number is 43-1356677 and gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please consult your tax, financial or legal advisor concerning any gift arrangements you are considering as we cannot provide tax or legal advice. Also, if you are making a planned gift to The Giving Grove, please let us know confidentially so that we will be aware of your intentions.

BEQUESTS

One of the easiest ways to make a planned gift is to designate The Giving Grove as a beneficiary in your will. A bequest may be a specific dollar amount, a certain asset or a percentage of your estate. Your attorney can add a bequest to your will with language as simple as this: “I give and bequeath the sum of _____ to Kansas City Community Gardens, Giving Grove program”.

RETIREMENT PLANS

Naming The Giving Grove as a beneficiary of your Individual Retirement Account, 401(K) or other retirement accounts may provide income and estate tax savings. Your employer’s human resources office or the broker or other plan custodian of your IRA can provide you with the change of beneficiary designation to make this gift.

GIFTS OF STOCK

Make Kansas City a greener, more food secure and healthier place to live by donating stock, safely and easily, to The Giving Grove. Please contact us for details.

Thank you for considering a contribution to The Giving Grove. Please get in touch with Rob Reiman or Kathy Hart at (816) 931-3877 if you have questions.

The Giving Grove- Kansas City Community Gardens
6917 Kensington
Kansas City, MO 64132
(816)931-3877
www.givinggrove.org

PARTNERSHIPS

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



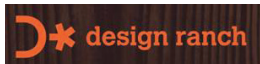
after the harvest
healthy food for hungry people



John C Griswold Foundation



THANK YOU



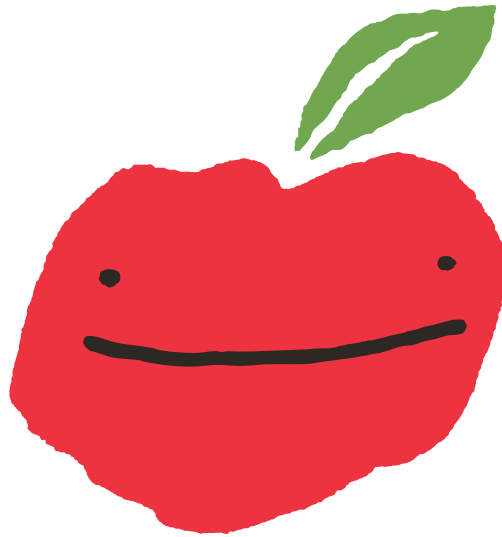
Cummins Nursery



Friends of Hale Cook



6917 Kensington Ave. Kansas City, MO 64132



THE GIVING GROVE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

A program of the Kansas City Community Gardens

Come grow with us.

