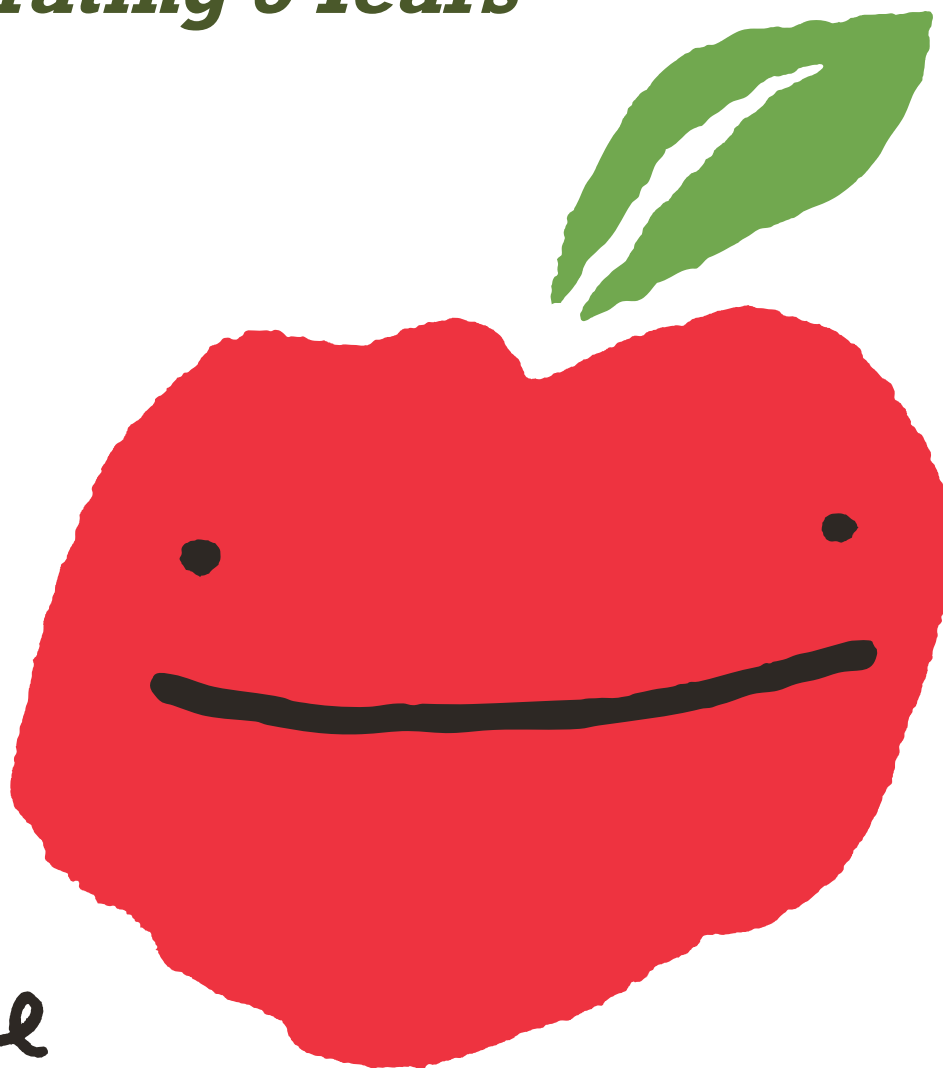


Celebrating 5 Years



the
**GIVING
GROVE**



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

THE NUMBERS, AS OF DECEMBER 2017

145

Sites

2179

Trees

920

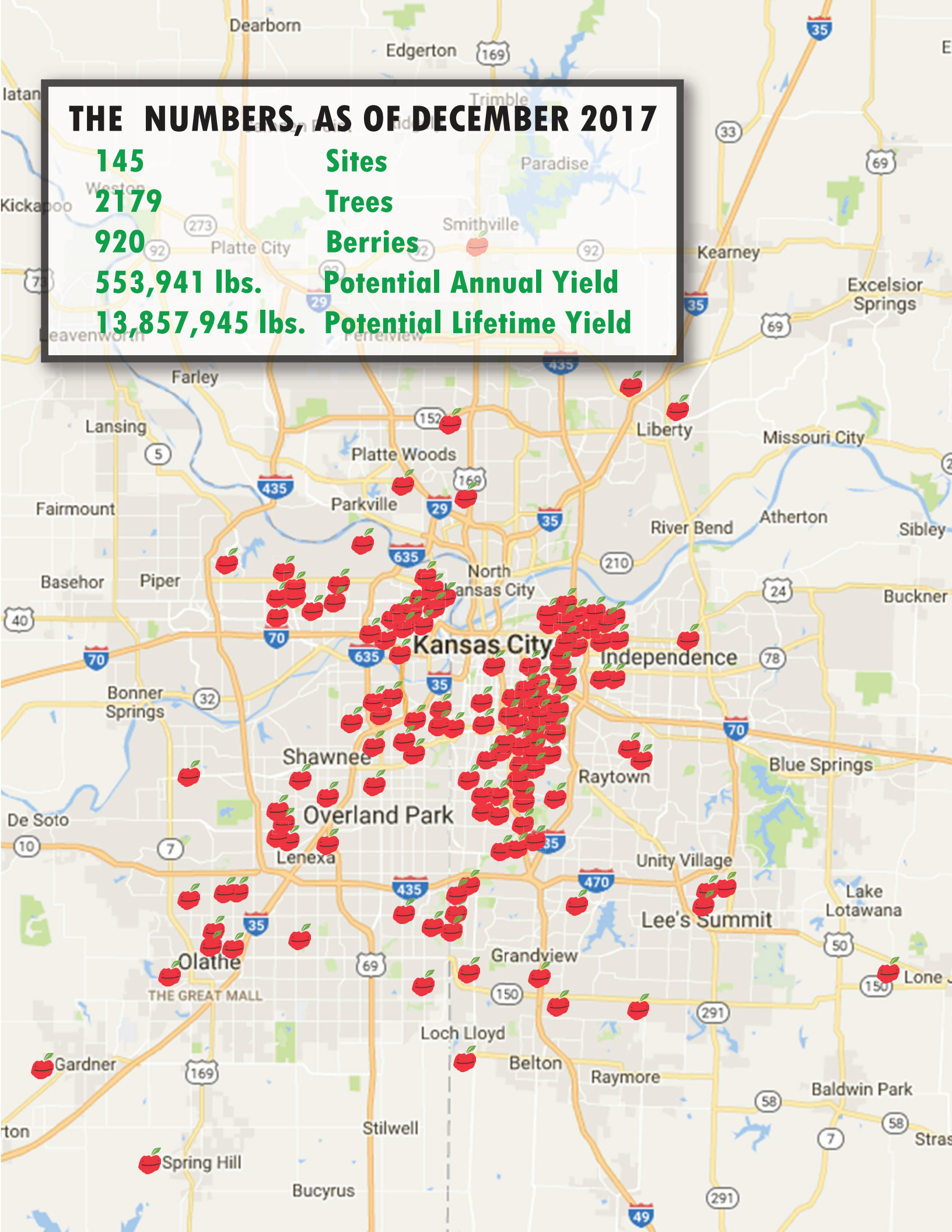
Berries

553,941 lbs.

Potential Annual Yield

13,857,945 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 the product of a village.”

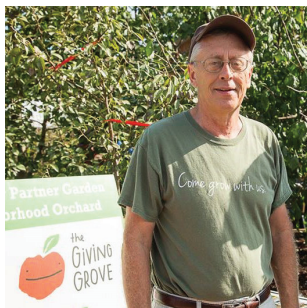
- KAREN SLAUGHTER

STEWARD AT KEY COALITION POCKET PARK

PRESIDENT OF KEY COALITION INC.

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

It is with great excitement that we celebrate the Giving Grove's 5-year anniversary, and great anticipation of the next 5 years to come. It almost seems like yesterday that we installed our first small grove at an elementary school in Kansas City, Missouri. With our fall projects included (and by the time this report goes to publication), we will have 145 community orchards installed. An amazing accomplishment – and yet we recognize the need for many, many more. And though the trees that are producing remain very young, we hear from many neighborhoods that these orchards are transforming their community. We've heard countless stories about the connections being formed among neighbors, the impact on young children in bringing awareness to food production, and stories about how the homes around the orchard have a fresh coat of paint or that the boards are being removed from the windows. While healthy food for underserved families is at the heart of this mission, we are happy to hear from our stewards that the impact is much more.



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

em·pow·er: make someone stronger and more confident, especially in controlling their life and claiming their rights.

At The Giving Grove, the empowerment of individuals, families, neighborhoods and communities is at the very core of our approach to achieving greater food security. Small neighborhood orchards are popping up all over metropolitan Kansas City, and now – St Louis as well. These orchards are championed and maintained by individuals in their community. They invest by collecting what they can to pay for their trees. Not ordinary fruit trees. Carefully selected cultivars and varieties proven to resist common problems in the commercial orchards which require the assistance of many chemicals and fungicides. Instead, the Giving Grove orchard stewards use a “holistic” approach to nurturing healthy trees. These orchard communities learn the importance of healthy soil biology. And in their third or fourth year, these community orchards begin to bare small quantities of organic fruit - shared among the neighbors. And that is only where the wonder begins. It is at this point that neighbors become introduced for the first time at a harvest celebration. Weddings and community events begin to take place among the blossoming or fruit filled orchard. Children on their way to school stop by for a snack. No supply chain required to support this food system. No heavy chemicals required. Located most commonly in neighborhoods where refrigerators frequently go without.

It works because the individuals committed to supporting their community orchard, care about their community. As we celebrate our five-year anniversary – we celebrate and lift up these devoted people – our Giving Grove stewards.

Ben Sharda
Executive Director, KCCG

Rob Reiman
Executive Director, The Giving Grove

HISTORY

The inspiration behind the Giving Grove was first discussed in 2011 by three of the current Board members: Kevin Birzer, Greg Finkle and Ray Makalous.

Deeply concerned about food insecurity, these individuals began exploring the idea of creating edible tree gardens (community orchards) as a means to feed the hungry. The founders assembled a six-person steering group to research existing programs and resources locally and across the nation. A year later, the group had created a business plan which established these guiding principles:

- organic sustainable production of fruit trees, nut trees, berries and shrubs
- the training of neighborhood stewards to manage the orchards
- community ownership of the orchard, and
- a harvest shared with those in need.

Collaboration has been key to the growth and success of The Giving Grove. Organizing as a program of The Kansas City Community Gardens jump-started the program by sharing resources, expertise, and community contacts. After the Harvest, an early and continuing partner, stands ready to provide gleanings for orchards that need additional harvest assistance. Planting partnerships have developed with Habitat for Humanity, parks and recreation departments, students from area colleges, many non-profits with overlapping or related missions, school districts, communities of faith, and many more.

There are micro-orchards at 145 locations across the Kansas City metro area. There are 2,174 trees in the ground providing a potential annual yield of over 550,000 pounds of produce. That produce packed in bushel baskets would stretch for 3.2 miles! Such harvests are the result of the devotion of each orchard's stewards, those unheralded few who quietly provide

the watering, pruning, winterizing, tending and harvesting that makes their neighborhood's orchard a success.

As these plantings mature and produce fruit, engagement with neighborhoods takes on added importance. The Giving Grove is working with the UMKC Center for Neighborhoods to develop best practices for neighborhood involvement. An expanding program has also increased our facility needs, leading to construction of a new garage and office renovations so that the program staff has dedicated office and storage space. In addition, with maturing trees, neighborhoods need orchard ladders, harvesting tools and pole pruners. In order to make these tools accessible to the steward teams, the Giving Grove has established our first tool library, a 20-foot storage container customized with proper shelving and storage capabilities in Kansas City, KS.

With the assistance of GKCCC's Centurions, the Giving Grove is creating a long-dreamed-about demonstration orchard at KCCG headquarters. The organization also received our first federal funding from the EPA.

Finally, after five years of planting experience, The Giving Grove has applied for 501c3 status for the establishment of a national Giving Grove organization, which will plant micro-orchards across the region and then the nation using the Kansas City model. Current regional partnering cities include Omaha and St. Louis. In October, Rob assisted with stewardship training and planting for our first non-KC metro area orchard in Ferguson, Missouri with our St. Louis partner – Gateway Greening.



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, 2017

Income	
Local Government	8,000
Donor Designations - United Way	1,000
Supporting Individuals and Board members	105,248
Supporting Foundations	130,986
Supporting Businesses and Groups	31,529
Project Site Contributions	20,096
Total Revenues	296,859
Cost of Goods Sold (Trees)	14,027
Total Revenues Less Cost of Trees	282,832
Expenses	
Salary and Benefits - Mgmt, Program, Dev	230,906
Management and General	29,455
Vehicle Expense	2,206
Program Inputs	5,070
Total Expenses	267,637
Net Income - Reserve	15,195

*Pre Audited Financials

BOARD MEMBERS

The Giving Grove Board adds expertise in marketing, finance, organizational structure, outreach, and community development.

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

Gordon Braun
Managing Director at Protiviti

Greg Finkle
Co-founder of Finkle+Williams

Ray Makalous
Retired after 37 years in the banking industry

Lisa Ousley
Executive Director of After the Harvest

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

Ben Sharda
KCCG Executive Director

SPONSORS - FISCAL YEAR 2017

\$30,000- \$100,000

Anonymous

Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7 – Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City – Applicant Defined Grant

Louetta M. Cowden Foundation – Bank of America, N.A., Trustee

Missouri Department of Economic Development – Neighborhood Assistance Program

\$10,000- \$29,999

American Family Insurance Dreams Foundation

Change Happens Foundation

Mariner Wealth Advisors, LLC

Mariner Foundation

\$25-\$9,999

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church – Special Offering

American Century Investments

Benevity Community Impact Fund

Bess Spiva Timmons Foundation

Community Capital Fund

Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation

Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce – Centurions Leadership Program

Kelly Family Foundation

Ladies Philoptochos Chapter of the Annunciation

Jeffrey L. Bruce and Company

Johnston, Ballweg & Modcrin, L.C.

New Belgium Brewery

PEO Sisterhood Chapter IX

Piper Jaffray – Matching Support, Bill Henderson Contribution

Protiviti, Inc.

Unified Government of Wyandotte County – Hollywood Casino Schlitterbahn Vacation Village

Honor and Memorial Contributions

The Giving Grove would like to give special recognition to those who donated in honor and in memory of loved ones:

In Honor of Adam and Angie Quigley

Jill and Jim Quigley

In Memory of Robert Babcock

Jill Bunting

In Memory of Coye Lewis

Terry and Cathy Matlack, Myra Popejoy, Merck Foundation (matching support)

Individual/In-Kind Supporters

The Giving Grove is also thankful for the many individual contributors, board members, volunteers, and in-kind donors who generously supported our work this year.

A HORTICULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

Variety is the spice of life.

For those of you who have been following us you know how important the right fruit and nut varieties are to the success of our program. We plant over 75 varieties of 15 different fruit and nut trees. As we grow as an organization and as tree stewards, we will continue to evaluate these varieties and add new ones. Here are just a few notes from the field about the varieties we grow.

Yoinashi Asian Pear is one of our most planted varieties with 120 trees at 52 sites. Yoinashi, depending on the year, ripens anywhere from early August to early September and blushes a translucent yellow to let you know. The flavor early in ripeness is that of sweet water, very crisp and very refreshing, with mild acidity. As the fruit ripens, it gets more caramel and butterscotch notes. The growth habit is very uniform, and the tree is easily pruned. Many of the 2013-planted trees have yielded at least 50 fruits per tree this past year.

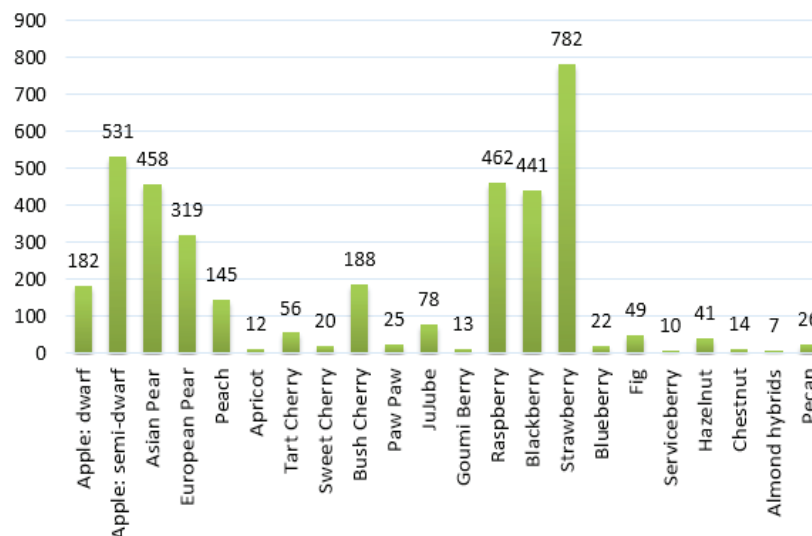
Shenandoah Pawpaw is one of the pawpaws recommended by Missouri State University, and it is one we have planted at a few sites. This year we got to see why it was recommended as we made a field trip to Mountain Grove, Missouri, to see the field trials of many pawpaw varieties. Out of the dozen or so varieties that we harvested and weighed, Shenandoah had more fruits that weighed a pound or more than any other variety. We were inspired by this tree and will see the fruits of our own plantings in the next 3-4 years. Call it the Missouri or Kansas Banana, either way pawpaw is one of our native fruits.

Carmela Hazelnut was not named Carmela when we first acquired this plant, but rather Grimo 208P. Since then, Grimo Nut Nursery has given this plant a better name, and we have noticed that whatever the name, the plant produces copious amounts of hazelnuts. We feared that 2017 would be unproductive for the two Carmelas and four other hazelnuts planted at our demonstration orchard in 2014. But hazelnuts have a way of hiding their harvest until the nuts drop in autumn, and Carmela surprised us this year by producing over 100 nuts on each shrub. We look forward to the future of this variety.

With nearly 200 trees planted at 75 sites, Liberty Apple ranks as our second most planted tree. Liberty features great disease resistance to all the major apple diseases. Ripening red in early September, the fruit will sweeten if allowed to remain on the tree throughout the month. Liberty also can store well in refrigeration for 3-4 months. Many of our 2013 and 2014 plantings are yielding 50+ apples per tree, and can look forward to larger harvests in the future.

These varieties are but a taste of what we have planted. As we expand, not just in the Kansas City Area but to St. Louis and beyond, we will continue to broaden our horticultural horizons in all the varieties that we select and plant.

- MATT BUNCH



SUCCESS STORIES — FALL 2016



Beaumont Baptist Church

The goal of Beaumont Baptist Church's Giving Grove orchard is to teach kids how to grow healthy food and how to be a good steward for God's creation. In addition, the congregation aims to provide a way for low-income and impoverished people to become more self-sufficient. The 10 fruit trees, two bush cherry shrubs, and two raised beds of blackberries, planted in fall of 2016 beside an established KCCG Community Partner Garden, will assist in meeting these goals.



Border Star Montessori School

Border Star became a Giving Grove site during the fall of 2016, after establishing a planting of six fruit trees, blackberries, and raspberries as part of an existing KCCG Schoolyard Garden. The school has an active PTA program that brings students out to the school garden and orchard throughout the year for learning opportunities.



Community Covenant Church

Community Covenant Church established a KCCG Community Partner Garden in 2013 to provide local food pantries with fresh vegetables. As part of these ministry efforts, participants were excited to add five fruit trees to the mix in the fall of 2016 with Giving Grove support. The gardening group is a small but mighty group, open for expansion and interested in additional volunteers. Please contact the church to join the efforts.



Heartland All Species Project

The Heartland All Species Project orchard, located on Tracy Street in Kansas City, Missouri, is a demonstration and education site dedicated to growing fruits and vegetables. In addition to demonstrating how growing food in the neighborhood can be attractive, the project is also providing healthy food for neighbors on the block. The orchard consists of four pear trees, six espalier apple trees, two bush cherry shrubs, and a native insectary planting.



Hillcrest Transitional Housing of Kansas

Thanks to the staff and volunteers at Hillcrest Transitional Housing of Kansas, a non-profit dedicated to helping the homeless transition to self-sufficiency, this Giving Grove located in Kansas City, Kansas, includes four Asian pear trees. The orchard is an excellent complement to the existing community garden, which consists of 44 thriving raised beds of vegetables and an abundance of blackberries. The orchard is symbolic of the mission of Hillcrest – to plant and nurture life, helping it to grow and flourish.

SUCCESS STORIES — FALL 2016



Home Grown Community Garden

“Home Grown on 20th” is an edible landscaped community in the Washington Wheatley Community, built by Home Contained LLC. Developer Debbie Glassberg is creating an all edible garden and training area for the new homeowners and the rest of the neighborhood. The unique design is focused around an extremely large, existing pear tree that has nourished the neighbors for years and includes additional apple and peach trees with bush cherries and aronia berries. Steve Mann of Prairie Ecosystem Management leads workshops on-site in the garden focusing on permaculture and sustainable design systems.



Jewish Vocational Services

The JVS Global Gardens Project added a Giving Grove planting to their established community garden location in the Historic Northeast KC. Giving Grove staff worked with refugees to plant bush cherry shrubs, dwarf apple trees, Asian pear trees, and a peach tree to add healthy fruit for gardeners to enjoy.



Nile Valley Orchard

The orchard, part of the Nile Valley Aquaponics project in the urban core of Kansas City, Missouri, will increase access to fresh, organic food and help revitalize the neighborhood while providing alternative sources of income for residents. The orchard includes two peach, two European pear, two Asian pear, three apple, one fig tree, and raspberries.



Overland Park Community Garden

Overland Park Community Garden (OPCG), in partnership with the City of Overland Park’s Parks and Recreation Department, established a Giving Grove orchard located adjacent to the Oak Park Library. The Grove consists of 11 trees with a mixture of apples and European and Asian pears. It complements OPCG’s mission of providing space to grow healthy food using organic, sustainable, and environmentally friendly methods. It extends the charitable arm of OPCG and contributes to building community, a primary goal of the original community garden.



Paseo West Community Garden

Paseo West Community Garden is a project of Hope Faith Ministries, the William Jewell College Pryor Leadership Program, and other partners and volunteers dedicated to fostering community in the Paseo West Neighborhood. In the fall of 2016, Paseo West Community Garden became a Giving Grove site to gain valuable resources and assistance with two existing apple trees, along with blackberry and raspberry crops. The garden supports formerly homeless individuals transitioning into permanent housing as part of Hope Faith Ministries.

SUCCESS STORIES — FALL 2016



Sheffield Park

Our newest project in partnership with the Kansas City, Missouri Department of Parks and Recreation became a reality in fall of 2016 at Sheffield Park in the Historic Northeast neighborhood of Kansas City, Missouri. This project, sponsored by Kansas City University (KCU), is a part of the 100 trees planted to honor the University's 100th year anniversary. The planting includes jujube, fig, bush cherry, European pear, Asian pear, apple, and chestnut trees.



Total Man Community Development Corporation

The orchard will support Total Man's goal of creating a healthy community by improving access to fresh fruits and vegetables. The combined KCCG Community Partner Garden and Giving Grove orchard will provide access to healthy foods, educational and social benefits including youth enrichment, and sharing of food production knowledge with the wider community. Total Man CDC members also believe that bringing the community together to grow food will have a positive impact by discouraging crime and vandalism in this urban core neighborhood.



Turtle Hill Community Association

Neighborhood leaders from the historic Turtle Hill neighborhood in Kansas City, Kansas, came together with nearby First Baptist church, local firefighters and community police officers to make the orchard a success. Turtle Hill Community Association members are committed to fostering a safe, healthy community and are growing fresh fruits to donate to two area food pantries. The community orchard is located on land made available by Liberty Bank. It includes three Asian pear, three European pear, three apple trees, two bush cherry shrubs, blackberries, and raspberries.



Washington High School

The Giving Grove orchard at Washington High School will help students learn healthy eating habits, gain hands-on experience in the garden as part of science classes, and prepare students for careers related to agriculture. The orchard contains three apple, three European pear, and four Asian pear trees.

SUCCESS STORIES — SPRING 2017



31st & Brooklyn Pocket Park

Food Not Bombs KC is the local chapter of an international movement serving healthy vegetarian food and currently serving a meal weekly in Kansas City, Missouri. This pocket park orchard will move the group in a sustainable direction by providing another source of nutritious locally-produced food to distribute.



Barry Platte Park

Barry - Platte Community Garden and Orchard is a wonderful partnership between the Platte County Parks and Recreation Department, The Giving Grove, and neighborhood volunteers. With three chestnuts, three European and three Asian pears, three apples, three bush cherries, and 15 feet of raspberries, the orchard is a perfect complement to the community garden at the site. The garden's and orchard's goal is to provide a place for children from the neighborhood, local schools, and those visiting the park a chance to experience all the joys of gardening and of harvesting their own healthy food.



Beautiful Things WYCO

This orchard is being cultivated to provide healthy options to the community of Wyandotte County. All of the produce will go to a local food pantry or to the community volunteers who help manage the orchard. We have started with an orchard of 12 trees and 18 berry bushes with the plan to add a little more every year.



Center City Neighborhood Orchard

The Giving Grove adopted this established orchard in 2017 and has since provided direction and assistance to the neighborhood stewards tending the grove. This orchard is a collaboration of neighborhood volunteers, Habitat for Humanity, and The Giving Grove. In the early 1900's, Center City represented a strategic destination – attractive to people looking to buy homes just outside of the crowded downtown area, and became one of the early, "modern middle class" communities. Today this orchard reflects the culture of a neighborhood committed to re-building a strong sense of community.



City Bitty Farm

City Bitty is a two-acre diversified urban farm in Kansas City, Missouri that specializes in year-round microgreen production. A special partnership with The Giving Grove makes this operation now a fruit producing farm after planting 36 apples, 15 Asian pears, 10 figs, and 15 bush cherries! City Bitty Farm uses natural methods to produce the freshest, healthiest, and best tasting food possible. They regularly work with After the Harvest to glean produce for local food pantries.

SUCCESS STORIES — SPRING 2017



East High School

East High School sits in a food desert and serves 100% low socio-economic students from all over the globe. Historically, East HS served as an agricultural school and the newly planted orchard was placed beside several large existing apple trees. The now diverse orchard made up of Asian pears, European pears, jujubes and apples will provide students with both fresh fruit and the opportunity to learn about fruit production.



Hogan Prep Middle School

This orchard will allow the 360 students at this charter school to learn about fruits that are locally grown, while providing them with fresh produce that they can eat in combination with the vegetables they grow in the schoolyard garden on site. Students will learn during class time how to care for the orchard. The students and garden coordinators hope to grow enough produce to share with families and community members.



Jacob's Well

The Jacob's Well Garden team is comprised of employees, clients, and families working together to produce healthy food. The Giving Grove orchard, consisting of blackberries, bush cherries, Asian pears and a peach tree, sits beside the community vegetable garden. Produce is shared with the neighborhood and also goes to support the Carousel Adult Day Care, a medical model adult day center, serving the elderly and adults with special needs.



Lee's Summit Christian Church

The new Welcome Orchard and the church's Welcome Garden demonstrate this congregation's commitment to its mission, "Building Bridges of Grace from the Welcome Table to Every Table." Working alongside neighbors and friends, congregation members work together to provide fresh produce to those people in the community that might otherwise not have access to fresh, nutritious fruits and vegetables.



Montgall Estate Apple Orchard

This orchard hosts 15 fruit trees and will eventually include more than 40 fruit-producing trees. This land just east of Prospect has been vacant for years and the introduction of fruit trees will support neighborhood beautification, as well as sustainable food production. The fruit will be provided to those who need it free of charge.

SUCCESS STORIES -- SPRING 2017



Oregon Trail Middle School

An eager student at Oregon Trail Middle School developed the idea for a schoolyard garden and orchard that would make healthy food available for his classmates. With a great student-led vision and grant funding, the ten tree orchard with blackberries and raspberries was installed. The orchard will be a teaching tool for garden club members and a source of sustainable food for students and community.



Rainbow Mennonite Church

The orchard will provide fruit to the Rainbow Summer Program, a historic Freedom School site affiliated with the Children's Defense Fund. The orchard will also be incorporated into the school curriculum. By the time the orchard is producing fruit, the school will be a year-round program. The children will get to learn where their food comes from, as well as help in the orchard and eat the fruits of their labor.



Red Bridge Elementary School

Student interest to connect beyond the classroom and into the community led students from Red Bridge Elementary to partner with The Giving Grove to create an edible school garden, alongside an existing pollinator garden. The new plantings will provide a source of fresh fruit and berries for local food banks.



Ridgeview Elementary School

The mini-orchard at Ridgeview will allow students to experience perennial produce and take part in all phases of caring for trees and harvesting fruit. This activity will encourage Ridgeview students, families, and the surrounding community to become self-sufficient and develop healthy eating habits. Students will connect with healthy food through the new orchard and an existing schoolyard garden. Organizers hope that the Ridgeview community will be inspired to come together to grow, tend, harvest, use, and share the bounty.



The Salvation Army Olathe

The Salvation Army Olathe Corps has a long history of supporting the underserved and homeless community in Johnson County, Kansas. In an ongoing effort to reduce obesity and provide clients with healthy and fresh food alternatives, staff and volunteers installed an orchard and community garden in downtown Olathe. They plan to use fresh fruit and vegetables from the orchard and garden to help feed families staying in the Salvation Army Family Lodge, as well as to distribute them via the Salvation Army Food Pantry.

SUCCESS STORIES -- SPRING 2017



Squier Park

Squier Park Neighborhood Association planted a beautiful orchard to complement the neighborhood's existing vegetable raised beds on a recently expanded vacant lot at 38th and Paseo. Residents, including many children, came together to plant three apple trees, two Asian pears, three bush cherries, raspberries, blackberries, and a crabapple tree to aid with pollination. Neighbors have wonderful plans for the space, to include an outdoor meeting area, natural play space, native prairie garden, bird houses, and open-air structures to enhance the beauty and utility of Squier Park Gardens.



St. Margaret's Park

The St. Joseph's Neighborhood Watchdogs collaborated with the Kansas City, Kansas Parks and Recreation Department to plant this orchard in St. Margaret's Park. The Parks department graciously made a water hydrant assessable for this new park-site orchard, which represents the second Kansas City Kansas Parks-supported orchard. A vibrant team of stewards and apprentices supports this community orchard, which represents the first of many major infrastructure changes slated for this beautiful park.



St. Peter & All Saints Episcopal Church

This Giving Grove orchard will be a visible statement of the St. Peter & All Saints Episcopal Parish's commitment to hunger relief ministry in the community. The orchard complements a well-established community garden on the church property.



Woodland Farm

Woodland Farm seeks to recover the original design of the land, once a vibrant orchard. In doing so, this community will add beauty, educate neighborhood kids in the values of hard work and practical farming, and ultimately provide produce to others in the neighborhood who are food insecure. The goal of this fruitful orchard is to provide for others in the Legacy East neighborhood.

MEASURING SUCCESS OF COMMUNITY ORCHARDS

“We’re not growing it to make money, but for people to get healthy. We’re going to have some future farmers out of this.”

After five years of planting community orchards, we know there are many ways to measure the success of an orchard. Of course, we look at production numbers, the number of trees in the ground (2,172), the potential yield from those trees (550,000 pounds) and the number of orchards (145). Impressive numbers that meet our mission of growing food for those who need it. But we have discovered other equally important measures of success.

We measure success by harvest celebrations...an ice cream social in the Metropolitan Lutheran Ministries orchard, cider pressing at Home Grown on 20th, and celebrating a 40-year-old pear tree in the Washington Wheatley neighborhood.

We measure success by the people with whom we connect. The work of the Giving Grove team is only successful because of the time and efforts of our over 300 Giving Grove volunteer stewards and apprentices. In five years of planting we have enjoyed the gift of working with over 1,000 volunteers. These community partners are part of our success.



Before planting: The condition of the land prior to orchard planting. Land is just south of the railroad tracks.

But perhaps one of the greatest measures of a community orchard’s success is the transformation of space and neighborhood that takes place. The Turner Community Garden and Orchard is a wonderful example of such transformation. What was once an illegal dumping site and overgrown space owned by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad is now a prospering community garden and orchard. After receiving care and kindness from many communities while hiking the Appalachian Trail, Turner community member Jim Jarsulic wanted to give back to his community by starting a small community vegetable garden. He didn’t know just how much he would come to love and care for those neighbors. The vegetables grew, team members joined (including Calvin Hoover), a butterfly and children’s gardens were added, and in 2014 eighteen Giving Grove fruit trees were planted.

Jim and Calvin are quick to credit the success of the Turner Community Garden to the many community partners that contribute, including BNSF, Turner Recreation Commission, Turner Community Connection, K-State Research & Extension, Master Gardeners and The Giving Grove. We are grateful for the passion and energy that is given to the space. Using BPU funding, Jim and Calvin hire community youth as summer staff. High school Honor Society students complete community service projects at the garden and kids get their hands dirty in the garden as part of the Turner Rec summer camp program. Jim says, “The mentoring never stops, because that’s a very important part of this garden.”

Land that was once an eyesore for the community is now a thriving community garden, orchard, and gathering spot. Another member of the gardening community takes pride in the space by volunteering to pick up trash daily, enjoying fresh fruit from the orchard as a special perk. This year the Turner Giving Grove Orchard produced 129 pounds of peaches, 88 pounds of pears, and 12 pounds of apples. Connie Hoover, the garden’s official data collector, explains that was just the amount measured. There was more shared and eaten in the orchard before being weighed.

MEASURING SUCCESS OF COMMUNITY ORCHARDS



After planting: The same view now transformed with orchard, and streetside landscaping, and Turner Community Garden Sign.



After planting: Community stewards in the orchard during the 2017 growing season.

Jim sums up the reason for their efforts so nicely, "We're not growing it to make money, but for people to get healthy. We're going to have some future farmers out of this." Transformation of space, involvement of youth, pounds of healthy food being given away to the community, and empowerment of others are all great measurements of success at the Turner Community Garden. This is also true for so many other Giving Grove orchards across Kansas City and why we continue our community orchard work.

- AMANDA LINDAHL

THE GIVING GROVE – REPLICATING INTO OTHER CITIES

With a successful inaugural harvest in 2016, the Giving Grove Board made the decision to pilot the replication of the program into a couple additional cities. A formal business case was prepared which concluded that both Omaha and St Louis represented opportunities for expansion.

In fall of 2017, Gateway Greening in St Louis launched the first Giving Grove replication. Gateway Greening's Dean Gunderson will lead the local St. Louis Giving Grove program, leveraging the existing resources of their community garden organization. Led by Executive Director Matt Schindler, the organization supports over 200 community gardens and food projects as well as 70 school gardens in the St. Louis, Missouri metropolitan area.

An important element of launching the replication strategy was identifying a well-run business with a similar model and a proven track record of successfully serving low income families by growing healthy food. Gateway Greening represents the quintessential characteristics of that intent.



The first St Louis Giving Grove project occurred in Ferguson, MO. The Mayor joined in the effort along with the community.

WHO WE SERVE

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

As of the conclusion of 2017, The Giving Grove has now been through 10 planting seasons and has helped 145 communities in and around Kansas City establish edible tree gardens. By the numbers, there are 90 projects on the Missouri side and 55 on the Kansas side. In Missouri, a majority have been established in Jackson County – 83, with three in Clay County, one in Cass County, one in Johnson County, and two in Platte County. In Kansas, 32 are in Wyandotte County, while 22 are in Johnson County and one is in Miami County.

Taking a closer look at the communities being served, 118 of these orchards are in neighborhoods of need, low-income neighborhoods within or near food deserts. The remaining 27 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.

31 Schools (21%) – 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.

26 Communities of Faith (18%) – 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.

22 Neighborhoods (15%) – Often, neighborhood associations or a group within a community will sponsor the establishment of a community orchard.

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

15 Municipalities & Parks (10%) – 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.

9 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.

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

6 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.

5 Senior Housing (3%) – At low-income senior housing facilities, orchards offer a destination to remain connected with the outdoors and nature.

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

4 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.

TOTAL GIVING GROVE ORCHARD SITES

10th & Newton
 31st & Brooklyn Pocket Park
 5020 Olive Orchard
 Arrowhead Middle School
 Asylum
 Avila University
 Barry-Platte Community Garden
 The Barstow School
 Beaumont Baptist Church
 Beautiful Things WYCO
 Benton Community Garden
 Bethel Orchard
 Bhutanese Garden
 Blue Hills Prospect Community Garden
 Border Star Montessori
 Boys Grow
 Burke Elementary
 Butcher Greene Elementary
 Catholic Charities Office Location
 Catholic Charities Shalom House
 Center City
 Center City Neighborhood Orchard
 Center Elementary
 Central Middle School
 Cherith Brook
 Christian Fellowship Baptist
 City Bitty Farm
 Community Covenant
 Conception Garden
 Crescent Creek
 Cross-Lines
 Dave's Place
 Deerbrook Covenant
 DST 18th Broadway
 East High School
 Ed Russell Orchard
 Englewood Baptist Church
 Evangel Spiritual Temple
 Fisher Park, WYCO KCK Parks
 Gardner Community Garden
 Gillis Center
 Glanville Towers
 Green Springs Elementary
 Habitat Restore - Independence
 Hale Cook Elementary
 Harmon High School
 Harmony Park, KCMO Parks
 Heartland All Species
 Heartland Habitat

Hillcrest Ministries
 Hillcrest Transitional Housing of Kansas
 Hillview Church of God
 Hogan Prep High School
 Hogan Prep Middle School
 Home Contained
 Hope Methodist
 ICNA Relief USA
 Immanuel Manor
 Indian Mound Community Garden
 Jacob's Well
 Jerusalem Farm
 JoCo Adult Residential Center (ARC)
 JoCo Health Department - WIC
 Johnson County (MO) Board of Services
 Jewish Vocational Services
 Kansas City Community Garden
 Kauffman Foundation
 KCKCC
 KCUMB
 Key Coalition Pocket Park
 KU Med Food Is Medicine
 Lakeview Village Sr Community
 Lee's Summit Christian Church
 Lee's Summit Park - Woods Playground
 Liberty Ruth Moore Park
 Lone Elm Community Garden
 Longfellow Farm
 Lutheran Church of Resurrection
 Lykins Square Park, KCMO Parks
 Matlack, Terry and Cathy
 Mitzvah Garden -B'nai Jehudah
 MLM Spring Valley Park
 Montgall Estate Apple Orchard
 Morning Star Community Garden
 Nile Valley Orchard
 Niles Home for Children
 Northrup Park, WYCO KCK Parks
 Olathe Bible Church
 Olathe North Walnut Park
 Olathe South High School
 Overland Park Community Garden
 Operation Breakthrough
 Oregon Trail Middle School
 Ozanam Farm
 Palestine Senior Activity Center
 Paseo West Community Garden
 Passport Empowerment
 Peery Apartments Ctr for Behavioral Med

Pendleton Heights
 Police Athletic League
 Queen of Holy Rosary
 Quindaro Gardens (Righteous Roots)
 Rainbow Mennonite Church
 Rainbow School
 RDA South Early St. Garden
 Red Bridge Elementary School
 Redbridge United Methodist Church
 Rev. Sharon Garfield Memorial
 Community Garden
 Richardson Community Garden
 Richardson ELC
 Ridgeview Elementary School
 Ridgeview Senior Living
 Ronald McDonald Longfellow House
 Rosedale Middle School
 Salvation Army Olathe
 Schlagle High School
 Seton Center
 Seven Oaks Neighborhood
 Shawnee Mission Universal Unitarian
 Sheffield Park, KCMO Parks
 Sheffield Place
 Smithville United Methodist Church
 SouthRidge Apartment Complex
 Spring Hill Friendship Park
 Squier Park Neighborhood Association
 St. Margaret's Park, WYCO KCK Parks
 St. Mary Magdelene Episcopal
 St. Paul's United Methodist Church
 St. Peter & All Saints Episcopal Church
 State Street Project
 Stony Point North
 Strawberry Hill Community Garden
 Sumner Academy
 Total Man CDC
 Troostwood
 Truman Habitat for Humanity
 Turner Community Garden
 Turtle Hill Neighborhood Association
 Uzazi Village
 Volker Community Garden
 Washington High School
 WCAC
 Woodland ELC
 Woodland Farm
 Wyandotte Methodist

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

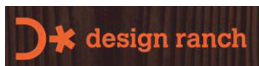
We wouldn't be able to do this without our partners.



after the harvest
healthy food for hungry people



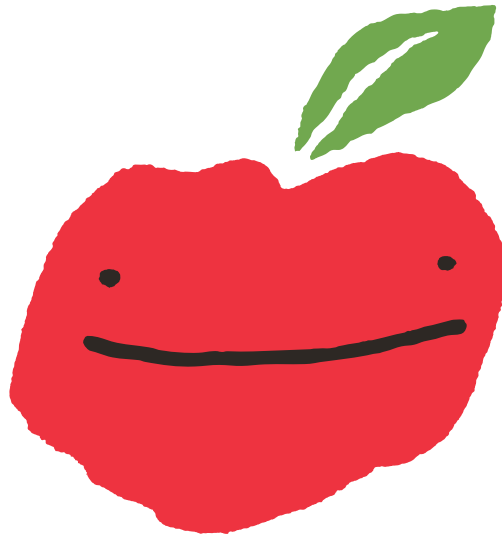
THANK YOU



Cummins Nursery



6917 Kensington Ave. Kansas City, MO 64132



THE GIVING GROVE 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

A program of the Kansas City Community Gardens

Come grow with us.

