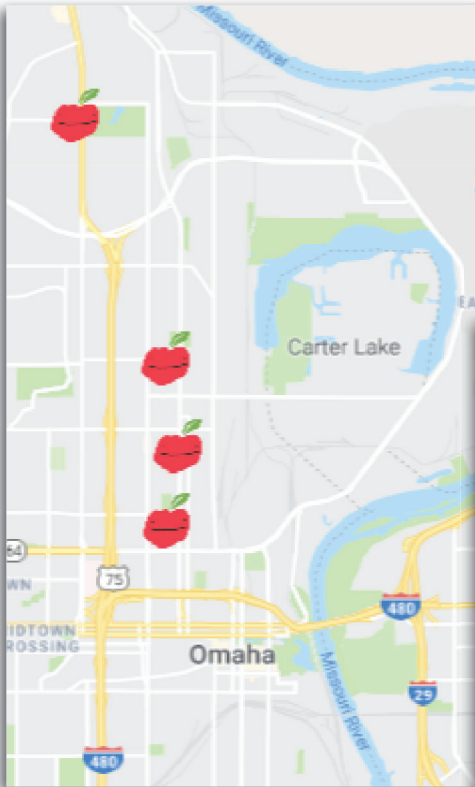
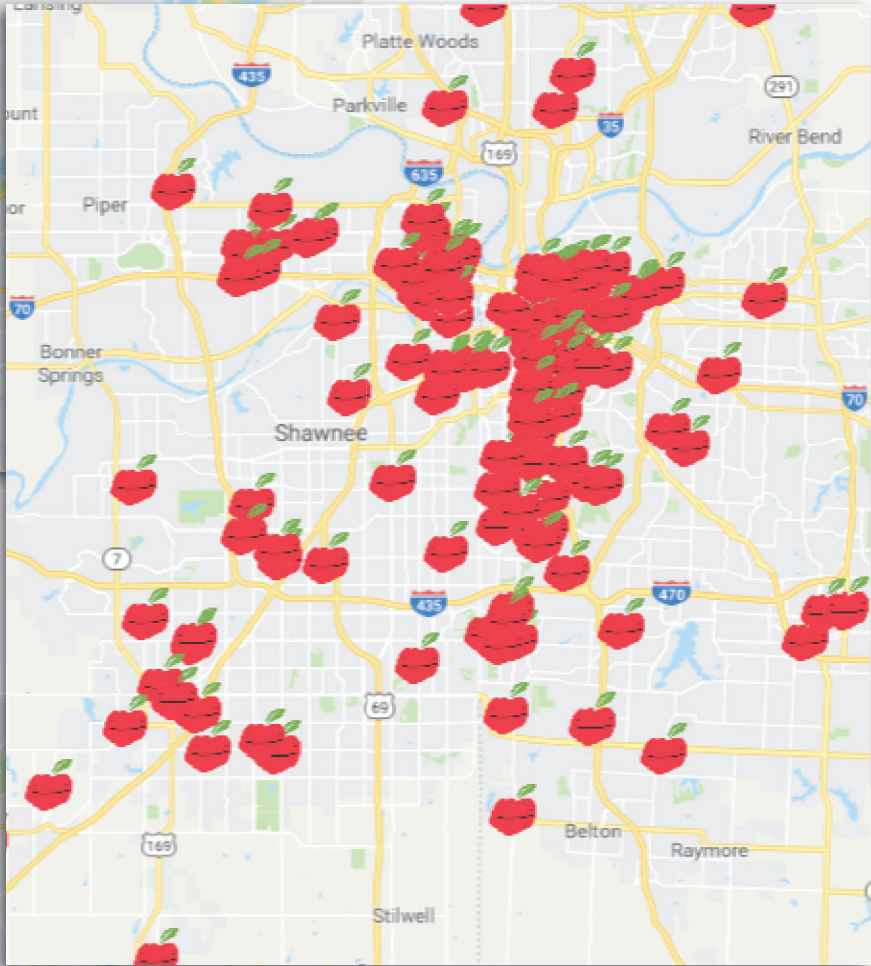


the
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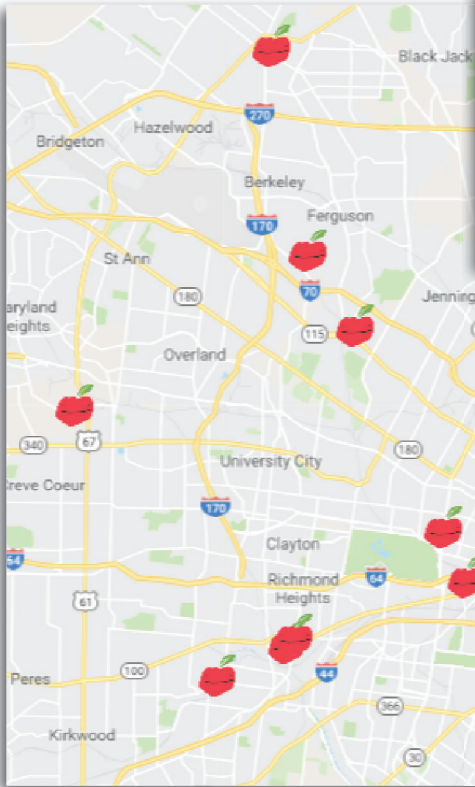
OMAHA, NEBRASKA



KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI



ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI



OUR MISSION

The Giving Grove inspires and empowers at-risk neighborhoods to make transformational change by establishing sustainable urban orchards.

This proven approach to neighborhood transformation:

- Offer healthy Calories: the average 15-tree Giving Grove orchard produces almost 4,000 pounds of healthy food each year, 74,000 pounds over its lifetime or 222,000 servings.
- Strengthen Community: Neighbors meet neighbors, children connect with nature, celebrations are held in the orchards and improvements are made to nearby homes.
- Act as Carbon Farms: Air quality improves, soil biology is enhanced, and storm water runoff is mitigated.

The success behind this innovative approach to community development lies in the simple nature of the business model, low cost of entry, elimination of the traditional food supply chain, and sustainable nature of the food supply. Together the food and the experience of growing food improve the resiliency of individuals and the neighborhood.

People who FEED themselves, LEAD themselves.

- Kansas City Urban Farm Co-op

Reduce | Reuse | Recycle

1. For a copy of this annual report, please email, givinggrove@gmail.com. To reduce our strain on mother nature – we encourage you to download a digital copy at <http://www.givinggrove.org/annual-reports>
 2. Hardcopy versions of this report have been manufactured using 100% certified renewable energy, printed on FSC certified paper, by our friends at Posty Cards – a LEED Platinum certified manufacturing facility based in Kansas City.
 3. As thoughtful financial stewards – we are intentional about maximizing value and minimizing investment in our Annual Reports. We utilize a consistent “look and feel” each year – to dramatically minimize the time required to produce this report.
-

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



A message from Rob Reiman, CEO, The Giving Grove

The food “emergency” of the 1970s is now, by all accounts, a well-documented chronic problem. In a worrisome trend, the moral responsibility of caring for the most vulnerable among us is being transferred from government to charitable organizations of all shapes and sizes.

Emergency food providers are more advanced than ever. With sophisticated warehousing and supply chain systems and strong community and volunteer support, they distribute more and more food each year. The largest feeding organization in America touts a jaw-dropping 4.3 billion meals in one year. Yet, I frequently hear from pantry leaders that their charitable food has transitioned from emergency food assistance to an institutionalized safety net.

As Robert Lupton explained in his book, *Toxic Charity – How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help*, Robert points out that charity too frequently addresses the symptoms of a problem rather than its root causes. Let me be clear, I am not admonishing emergency food assistance organizations and the noble work they do. We each provide essential resources for combating hunger. There are, however, tremendous opportunities to go beyond emergency food assistance to engaging communities in creating lasting change.

The Giving Grove offers a sustainable long-term solution that equips and inspires neighborhoods to learn how to develop their own nutritious alternative food system - urban agriculture at its best. But we are also a grower of community and connection to nature. An engaged neighborhood approach does not rely on the desire to help ‘others’ but rather on the intrinsic desire to work together, in mutual support. As people get to know and rely on each other, a true sense of community and resilience develops.

I love the following graphic from a special report on America’s food banks.



When empowered to grow, harvest and share their own fruits, berries, and nuts - communities create a food system that is additive in good times and a critical asset in tough times. If you are a kindred spirit and share our interest in creating grassroots, community-powered change in America, celebrate with us by supporting our movement.

Rob Reiman | CEO | The Giving Grove

WHY THIS WORK IS IMPORTANT

We live in a country with abundant resources, yet hunger exists for almost 50 million Americans.

As a nation with over 325 million, hunger touches roughly 1 in 6 of us – including more than 1 in 5 children. Further complicating the problem, good nutrition, particularly in the first three years of life, is the foundation for a child’s future physical and mental health, academic achievement, and economic productivity. Unfortunately, food insecurity threatens that critical foundation.

How We Work

Hunger is a long-term condition of poverty across the country. Too often, our solutions are limited to food charity and distribution. 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.

Our founders were deeply concerned for the growing number of hungry people and frustrated with the unending nature of emergency food relief. They concluded that the old mantra of teaching man to fish is an important underpinning for creating a sustainable solution to greater food justice. Access to healthy food grown by and shared among neighbors creates a food system that nourishes communities for decades.

The Giving Grove brings together the resources needed to develop community orchards. These community orchards:



Offer healthy Calories: the average 15-tree Giving Grove orchard produces almost 4,000 pounds of healthy food each year, 74,000 pounds over its lifetime.



Strengthen Community: Neighbors meet neighbors, children connect with nature, celebrations are held in the orchards and improvements are made to nearby homes.



Act as Carbon Farms: Air quality improves, soil biology is enhanced, and storm water runoff is mitigated.

Scaling

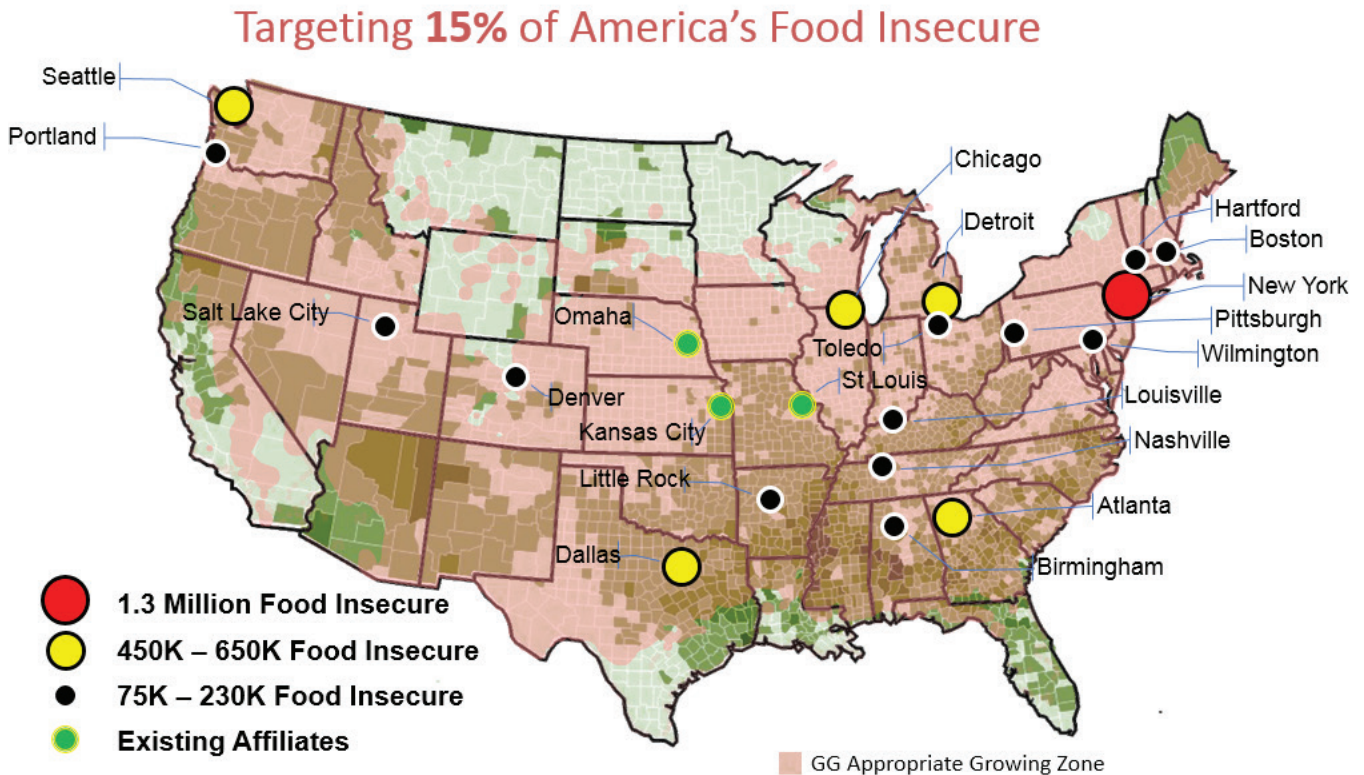
Launched in Kansas City in 2012, The Giving Grove has helped communities in the Kansas City metro area plant over 160 orchards with nearly 2700 trees. Now, The Giving Grove is bringing community orchards to food insecure neighborhoods in major cities across the nation.

Using St Louis Missouri and Omaha Nebraska as pilot “replication” sites, the building blocks for replication are now in place. Based on our pilot process, we have evidence that:

- the business model is ready to be shared,
- our program aligns with the needs and resources of many urban communities.
- we have experience with the financial resources to get the job done right, and
- this programming can make a dramatic impact on food insecurity in cities across the country.

BECOMING PART OF THE MOVEMENT

In the initial stage of our scaling efforts, we intend to prioritize expansion into specific cities. Our target cities combine “need” with “best in class” gardening/urban-farming non-profits that have the ability and sophistication to readily add new programming.



History has demonstrated that the greatest achievements for transformation in society occurs when individuals and groups collaborate and work toward common goals. If you share our vision for empowering communities to sustainably grow healthy food – in neighborhoods where the need is greatest using methods that leave the soil healthier and planet happier – we look forward to meeting and collaborating with you.

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, 2018

Income

Supporting Foundations	20,025
Supporting Individuals	101,500

Total Revenues

\$121,525

Expenses

Salary and Benefits	54,307
General and Admin	6,343
Travel and Conferences	771
Plant Material	9,838
Growing Supplies	2,416
Affiliate Grants Issued	14,200

Total Expenses

87,875

Net Income - Reserve

33,650

*Pre Audited Financials

BOARD MEMBERS

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



H. Kevin Birzer, CFA | President, Giving Grove Board of Trustees
Chief Executive Office and Co-Founder | Tortoise Capital Advisors
Mr. Birzer co-founded Tortoise Capital in 2002 and serves as a member of the Investment Committee. Tortoise Capital Advisors is an investment management firm managing approximately \$20 billion in assets.



Greg Finkle | Vice President, Giving Grove Board of Trustees
President and Co-Founder | Finkle+Williams Architecture
Co-founder of Finkle+Williams, a consulting firm that provides planning, architecture and interior design services throughout the U.S. and abroad.



Gordon Braun | Giving Grove Board of Trustees
Managing Director | Protiviti
Managing Director at Protiviti. For the last fifteen years, Gordon has been providing internal audit and risk consulting services across several industries.



Lisa Ousley | Giving Grove Board of Trustees
Executive Director | After the Harvest
Executive Director of After the Harvest, an organization that fights hunger by securing fresh produce for food banks and feeding agencies



Jill Quigley | Giving Grove Board of Trustees
Strategic Business Advisor | The Giving Grove Inc.
Former member of the Kansas House of Representatives serving from 2008 - 2010. She is an active community leader supporting the League of Womens Voters and MainStream Coalition.



Ben Sharda | Giving Grove Board of Trustees
Executive Director | Kansas City Community Gardens
KCCG's Executive Director since 1989. Ben holds a Bachelor of Horticulture degree from the University of Missouri.



Ray Makalous | Board Member - Emeritus
Retired
After spending 37 years in the banking industry, his AmeriCorps VISTA services and hunger ministry led him to co-found The Giving Grove.

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 we've added new partners in both St. Louis and Omaha, the combined planting partnerships, including Kansas City, totals 172 different communities. Taking a closer look at the communities being served, 141 of these orchards are in neighborhoods of need, low-income neighborhoods within or near food deserts. The remaining 31 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.

41 Schools (24%) – 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.

31 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.

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

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

17 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 (5%) – While managed on an exception basis, on some occasions – individual home owners serve as the champion for establishing a neighborhood orchard.

8 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.

7 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 (2%) – 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.

NATIONAL AFFILIATE - KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Affiliate Overview

Kansas City Community Gardens' (KCCG) 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. KCCG now supports over 200 community gardens, 8 locations where garden beds and plots can be rented, over 200 participating K-12 schools with raised garden beds, a childrens Beanstalk garden and demonstration orchard, and is also the home to the original Giving Grove program.

Operations

The Kansas City Community Gardens Giving Grove program has served as the pilot program for which much of the business model has been developed. Going forward, the Kansas City affiliate will continue to serve as an incubator for program innovation. Over the past six years of operations, the Kansas City operation has tested several ideas, including: Collaborating with Parks & Rec Departments, Targeting zip codes with low life expectancy, Establishing a Growers Co-Op.

This fall we've started conversations as a staff and with several stewards to brainstorm a new "Super Steward" idea. This idea may increase our capacity to assist stewards and partnering sites across the city by employing qualified stewards that will assist with management at several sites. We see this as an opportunity to not only provide part-time jobs for current stewards but increase productivity and capacity within our network.

Affiliate Program Leadership - Rob Reiman



Rob Reiman has led The Giving Grove from an idea conceived by three founding board members volunteering for a local hunger relief ministry to an award-winning national initiative. In 2017, Greater Kansas City Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) recognized The Giving Grove with a Thrive! award for most innovative community development program, and in 2014, the Mid-America Regional Council named The Giving Grove a Sustainability Success Story.

Prior to his work with The Giving Grove, Mr. Reiman retired from Deloitte Consulting after 27 years of providing management consulting services in information technology to multi-national companies and numerous public-sector agencies at the state and local levels. Mr. Reiman also led a regional corporate sustainability initiative to adopt "green" practices at Deloitte.

Mr. Reiman holds a Master of Science degree in Industrial Administrative Sciences and a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Iowa State University. He has previously served as an advisory board member for After the Harvest, a local gleaning organization; a board member for the Heartland Renewable Energy Society; and a Kansas City, Missouri, Urban Agriculture Zone Commissioner appointed by Kansas City Mayor Sly James. He is currently active in the Kansas City community as a member of American Public Square, the Greater Kansas City Food Policy Coalition, and the Healthy Communities Wyandotte Food Systems Action Team.

NATIONAL AFFILIATE - KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Kansas City Urban Farm Co-Op

“The People that Feed Themselves, Lead Themselves”
This is the motto that the community within the Kansas City Urban Farm Co-op (KCUFC) has adopted to inspire and encourage their co-op members to get involved. The co-op has been planning and visioning a sustainable food system for Kansas City for the past five years and this year were able to put that vision in the ground in the form of their community orchard.

KCUFC spent two years collaborating with The Giving Grove and Kansas City Parks and Recreation to find a suitable area within the Parks system to establish an orchard that takes up approximately 2/3 of an acre of land. After receiving a PIAC grant from the City of Kansas City, Missouri, the KCUFC leadership worked tirelessly to support local businesses that supported the project through fence construction, water line installation, and other necessary components of the orchard located within one of the city's oldest city public parks, Swope Park.

In spring of 2018, the orchard was installed on two spring planting days where over 70 supporting members of the community co-op showed up to plant 172 fruit trees and shrubs and 50 brambles.



The Kansas City Urban Farm Co-Op gathered a large group of volunteers on planting day ready to take part in the cooperative growing experience.



Members of the KCUFC Co-Op planting a bush cherry on planting day.

Metrics

Sites: 153

Trees: 2619

Brambles: 1021

Projected pounds per year: 659,400

Projected life-time pounds: 16,521,000



NATIONAL AFFILIATE - ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Affiliate Overview

Gateway Greening has been serving the St. Louis region for 34 years, envisioning a city where people are connected to the land, to their food, and to each other in deeply rooted resilient urban communities. Gateway Greening works toward that vision by supporting community driven agricultural projects including gardens and now thanks to our partnership with the Giving Grove, also orchards. Gateway Greening currently serves over 200 community projects including 23 orchards who are growing food for their local communities.

Operations

A key element of the Giving Grove program includes the ability to manage an inventory of disease resistant trees utilized in each planting project. Managing a tree nursery requires time and expertise. Gateway Greening has elected to outsource this function to another non-profit organization called Forest ReLeaf. Gateway Greening's Giving Grove was able to increase productivity in their first year of programming by partnering with Forest ReLeaf of Missouri, whose mission includes being a catalyst in planting trees to enrich communities.

Tree nurseries also require substantial green space. Gateway Greenway did not have adequate storage space for even one season's quantity of trees. Forest ReLeaf solved this issue by storing, caring for and maintaining all of the fruit trees and shrubs for the Gateway Greening Giving Grove this year. This mutually beneficial alliance helped both organizations achieve their goals in 2018, and are laying plans to continue the strong collaboration in the future.

Affiliate Program Leadership - Dean Gunderson



Dean Gunderson is the Community Projects Manager at Gateway Greening who also oversees the Giving Grove program in the St. Louis, Missouri region. His passion about the powerful connection between people and their environment throughout history and how it expresses itself through horticulture led him to volunteering at Gateway Greening early in his college career. After earning his master's degree in Geographical Science at Southern Illinois University, he was hired on with their community gardens organization and a few years later was promoted to running the program. In early 2017 while researching ways to add orchards to the Gateway Greening's services, he discovered the Giving Grove. Now, 23 orchards later, Dean says, "The rest is history."

NATIONAL AFFILIATE - ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Central Reform Congregation

The Central Reform Congregation (CRC) in St. Louis has had a passion for growing food for years, with all of their garden produce going to a local food pantry. Located at a Synagogue in St. Louis, the CRC needed to remove a large amount of existing landscaping for security reasons when the region experienced an increase in anti-Semitism. This left the area looking barren. During last fall's collaborative meetings to expand vegetable production, the CRC were instantly interested when they learned that Gateway Greening was starting a Giving Grove Program. They loved the idea of taking the opportunity to transform a barren space that materialized out of hate and turning it into an orchard that is a symbol of love.

Last fall, with the help of volunteers from St. Louis University, the CRC planted 4 fig bushes and 10 fruit trees including apples, European pears and Asian pears. The fruit from this planting will be a welcome addition to their food pantry donations.



The first planting project of the Gateway Greening Giving Grove in Ferguson, Missouri.



Participants at Central Reform Congregation planting day.

Metrics

Sites: 15

Trees: 158

Brambles: 26

Projected pounds per year: 32,900

Projected life-time pounds: 607,000



NATIONAL AFFILIATE - OMAHA, NEBRASKA

Affiliate Overview

The Big Garden was founded in 2005 by United Methodists Ministries through funding from the USDA's Community Food Project. The initial goal was to create twelve community gardens in three years. As of today, The Big Garden has helped to establish more than 160 community gardens in urban and rural communities throughout Nebraska, Kansas, and Southwest Iowa.

The Big Garden's focus has changed in the past five years to focus on not just building gardens but also educating communities in Omaha's most food insecure neighborhoods. They work with youth as young as two years old all the way up to seniors in their 80's to help alleviate hunger in Omaha by teaching folks how to grow, cook, and preserve their own food. The Big Garden is very excited that they were able to expand their efforts to include community orchards this year and hope to feed even more hungry people in Omaha through the Giving Grove program.

Operations

Many of the Giving Grove plantings that The Big Garden did this year around Omaha were at organizations that serve youth. At Nelson Mandela Elementary, Hope Center for Kids, Kellom Educare, The Union for Contemporary Arts, and Fontenelle Elementary, the youth actively participated in planting their trees and brambles.

At Kellom Educare, youngsters as young as one year old came out to help and the school will be tracking the growth of the trees against the growth of the youth. At Fontenelle Elementary, the youth were in charge of picking out locations for the trees and brambles, filling raised beds, digging the holes, and even measuring trunk to trunk to make sure the trees have plenty of space. The Big Garden is excited to see how each of these organizations continues to involve their youth in the care of these trees and even more excited to see these kiddos start reaping the fruits of their labor in just a few short years.

Affiliate Program Leadership - Erin Higgins



Born in Omaha and raised in Council Bluffs, Erin studied psychology and neuroscience at Grinnell College in Iowa. Erin fell head-first into the world of farming while interning at The Big Garden in 2015. She went on to work on small-scale, diversified vegetable farms in southwest Iowa and near Lincoln, Nebraska, before accepting the position of Education Manager at City Sprouts, one of The Big Garden's main partnering organizations. She rejoined The Big Garden team in 2017, and loves to share her passion for good, healthy, sustainably grown food with youth and adults alike.

In 2018, Erin began coordinating The Big Garden's Giving Grove program and is so excited to help partnering organizations all over the city incorporate perennial fruit trees and brambles into their gardens. Outside of work Erin loves to read, make music, work in her own garden, explore the natural world near Omaha, and spend time with her friends and family.

NATIONAL AFFILIATE - OMAHA, NEBRASKA



Nelson Mandela Elementary

Nelson Mandela Elementary planted the largest Giving Grove orchard in Omaha this year with a total of 15 trees and 18 brambles. This non-profit school requires all parents to volunteer time, and some of the parents love to volunteer in the garden. They came out, with kiddos in tow, in the spring to plant 12 of the trees. This fall, The Big Garden planted the last three trees and all the brambles exclusively with the scholars at Nelson Mandela. Kids as young as 5 braved the cold November to help plant. They loved digging in the dirt to find worms and a few of them were even strong and persistent enough to dig holes deep and wide enough to fit in the blackberries and

raspberries. It was amazing to see them move mulch with giddy and to see them grasp onto the concepts of perennials and annuals. The trees and brambles will start producing in earnest before the kindergarteners graduate from Nelson Mandela, and if cared for, will produce fruit for their community until they're over 30 years old! Riannon Bell, the head of culinary at the school, will include the fruit in their breakfasts and snacks, and any excess will be sent home with the kids' families.

Metrics

Sites: 4

Trees: 36

Brambles: 27

Projected pounds per year: 9,100

Projected life-time pounds: 169,800



NATIONAL GIVING GROVE METRICS



Lifetime Production Potential
17,224,300 pounds



Registered Volunteers
1,270



Number of Partnering Sites
172



Trained Stewards/Apprentices
403



Annual Production Potential
669,600 pounds



Number of 1/3 lbs. Servings
2,098,800 (annually)

NEIGHBORHOOD ORCHARD ECONOMICS

Average Trees/Site	15
Annual Production Potential	4,000 lbs.
Number 1/3 lb. Servings	12,000
Annual Value	\$9,775
Lifetime Production Potential	73,800 lbs.
Lifetime Value	\$186,000

LIFETIME ECONOMICS

Lifetime Production Potential	17.2M lbs.
Servings	51.6M lbs.
Lifetime Value	\$43.4M (free)

A HORTICULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

Branching Out

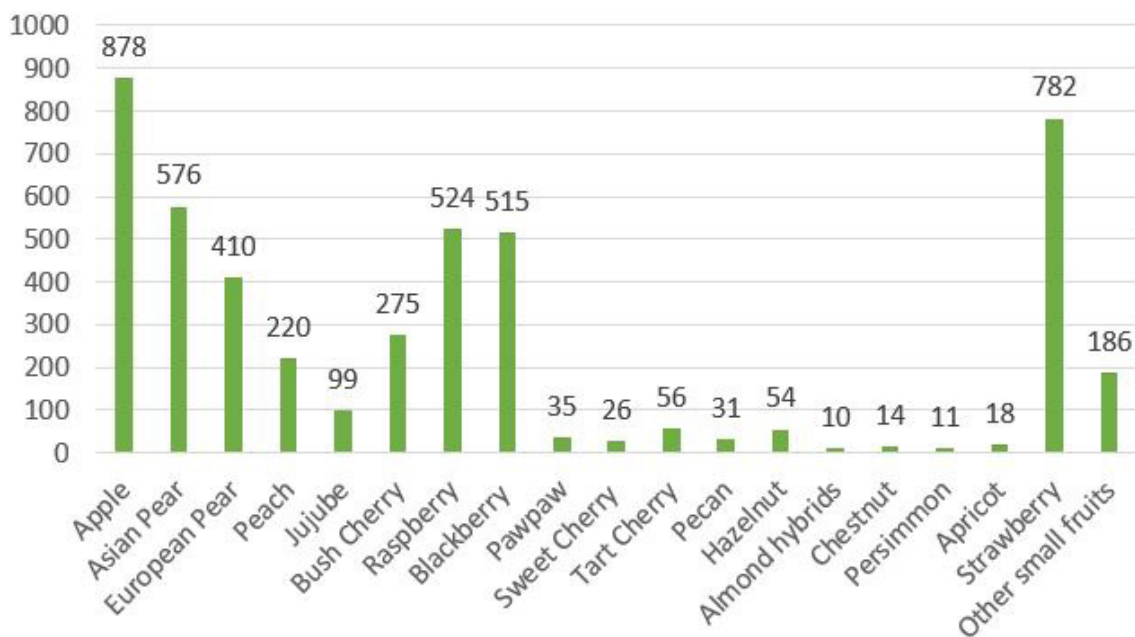
After six full growing seasons and over 2,500 fruit and nut trees installed in the Kansas City area, not only has our tree canopy increased, but so has the reach of the Giving Grove. In the fall of 2017 the Giving Grove established roots in St. Louis with Gateway Greening. Spring of 2018 saw expansion into Omaha, partnering with The Big Garden.

How does expansion into 17 different cities affect tree selection? Generally, it does not affect the types of fruits grown; apples, pears, Asian pears, peaches, cherries, and most berries will still do exceedingly well. The devil, however, is in the details and each Giving Grove opportunity area will have its climate nuances. For example, the difference in frost-free days and USDA Cold-Hardiness zones will range from 155 frost-free days in Denver, to 243 frost-free days in Atlanta. The "Hardiness Growing Zone" map divides North America into 11 separate planting zones. The targeted cities range from Zone 5b (-10° to -15°) to Zone 8b (15° to 20°).

What this means is certain varieties of apple (or related fruit type) may not have a long enough season for Omaha's climate, or enough chill hours in Atlanta, Georgia. We will also evaluate metrics including: blossom time, frost tolerance, chill hours, and geographic ranges of new and emerging fruit pests. As more cities come on board, we will evaluate the growing seasons, consult with local experts, and determine how best to equip neighborhoods with disease resistant fruit plants and the resources to grow them. As we continue to expand our footprint, we are also expanding our plant palette with jujubes, hardy kiwi, persimmons and beyond.

To date, these are the numbers of trees we have planted, comprising over 11 acres of tree canopy in three metropolitan areas.

Giving Grove Plant Totals All Cities as of 9/30/18



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The process of working collaboratively with and through groups of people affiliated by geographic proximity or special interest to address issues affecting the well-being of those people.

As an organization we have seen our idea of community engagement change as we have grown. In 2015, the Kansas City Giving Grove program hired a Community Engagement Coordinator, whose role was to engage the community around the orchard. We quickly realized that engagement needs to begin on day one, not year three at the time of first harvest.

Engaging the community around an orchard is critical to maintaining the orchard, harvesting the fruit and enjoying the physical space. The stewards provide the neighborhood leadership essential to developing that community engagement. Over the past three years, we have tested several approaches to increase engagement among our community stewardship teams.

One technique has been encouraging stewards to host community celebrations in their orchards. A harvest celebration is a wonderful way to engage the entire community in harvesting fruit during the growing season. Our pilot harvest celebration was with the community surrounding the Wyandotte Countians Against Crime orchard in Kansas City, Kansas. Neighbors, young and old, speaking English and Spanish, gathered in the orchard to harvest peaches and blackberries. The celebration was an opportunity for stewards to showcase the many varieties of fruit available and to demonstrate how to identify ripe fruit and properly harvest it.

Another community engagement technique used by the Giving Grove is referred to as the Asset-Based Community Development tool. This workshop-driven approach catalyzes neighborhood change by identifying and fostering the existing assets of the residents. The process provides a structured means for determining the assets of local people, associations, and institutions and developing a plan for using those assets to support orchard creation and maintenance. By introducing change in this manner, development comes from within and is sustainable, because a connection has been made between the local needs and the local assets.

When our early fruit plantings began producing, we began investing in harvest-related equipment, many of which also support community engagement. For example, we purchased an old-fashioned cider press and made it available to community groups for their celebrations. The press creates a unique kind of excitement as neighbors are drawn together around the rotating handle of the press and the sweet cider that drips from the machine.

Sometimes our orchards spark projects that both enrich the neighborhood and bring people together. When the Turtle Hill neighborhood received a grant for a youth art camp, they used their orchard as a focus for the project. Campers were charged with developing an art project for their neighborhood orchard space. The youth in the summer project designed and built a life-sized chessboard and a checker board.

Finding ways to help stewards engage the community has become even more of a priority as we discover the power of an orchard to impact a neighborhood.



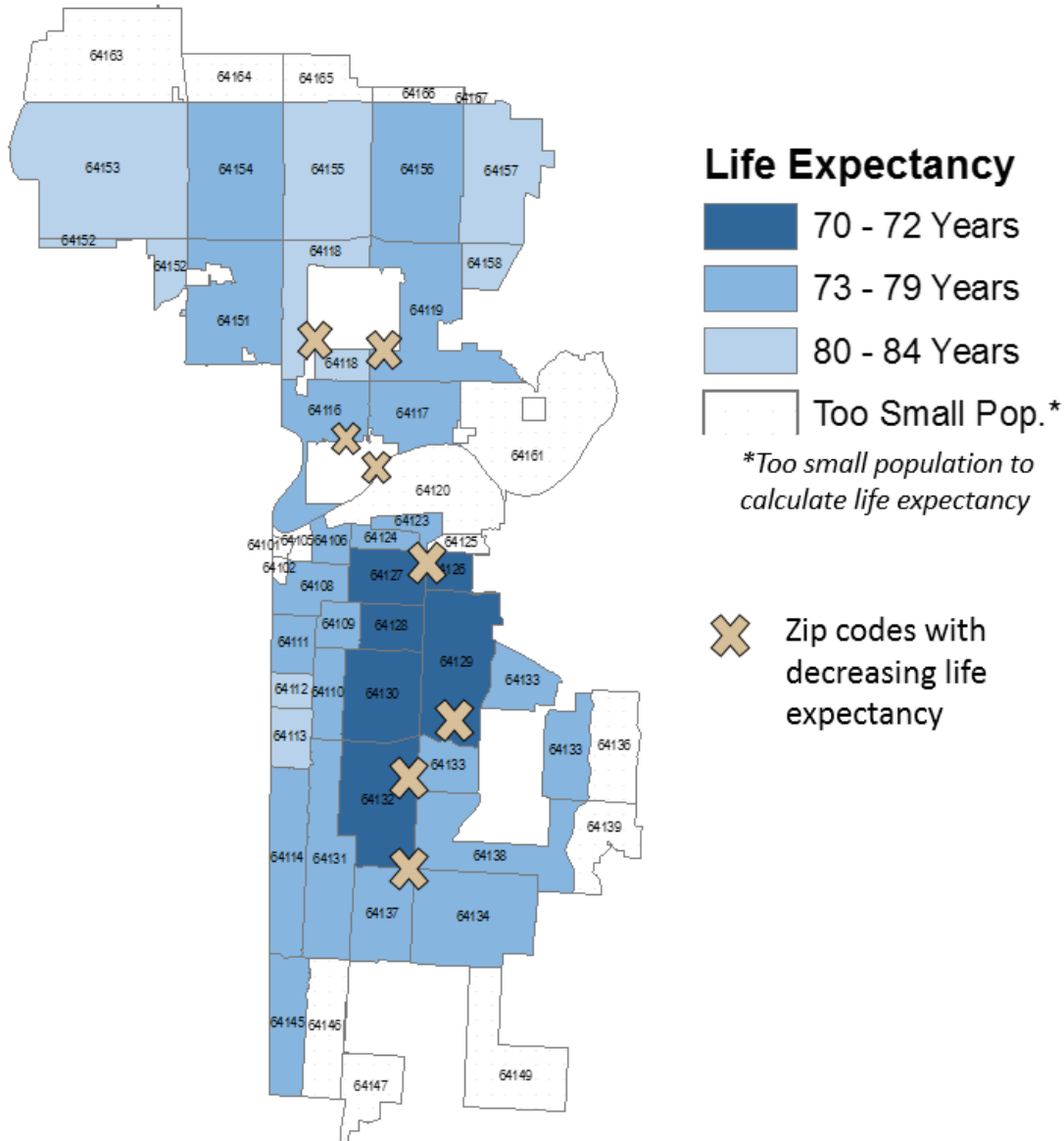
Youth participants in the Turtle Hill Neighborhood Summer Camp enjoy a celebration in the park surrounding the orchard.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

An Innovative Approach to Outreach

Since our launching in spring of 2013, our outreach has largely been a process of reacting to numerous neighborhood opportunities and/or requests. This year, the Kansas City program has teamed with the Kansas City Missouri Health Department to leverage a tool they have developed called "LifeX". The assessment tool identifies areas of the city with greatest health risk, as well as areas in decline. The LifeX data assessment has identified six specific communities in high need of community orchards, which provide a sustainable source of fresh and healthy food. These six zip codes (64126, 64127, 64128, 64129, 64130, and 64132 – see attached map) have the lowest life expectancies in the city. This represents a "proactive" approach that we hope might one day might become part of the programming across all Giving Grove affiliates.

Life Expectancy by Zip Code, Kansas City, MO 2012-2016



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.

Our Tax ID number is 46-5000184 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 The Giving Grove”.

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 at (816) 912-0594 if you have questions.

The Giving Grove
6917 Kensington
Kansas City, MO 64132
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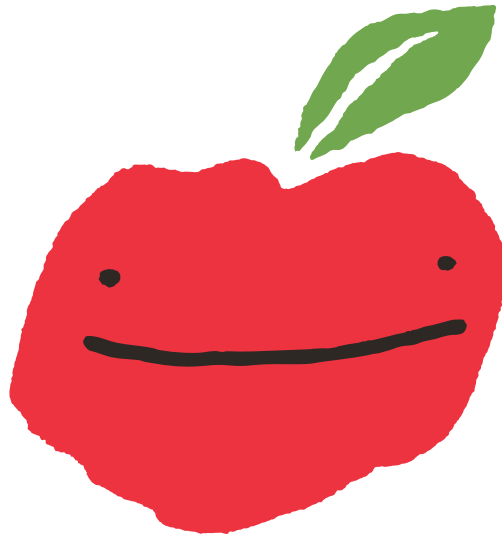
PARTNERSHIPS

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



THANK YOU





THE GIVING GROVE 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

*Empowering food insecure communities to
grow sustainable urban orchards*
