



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 14, 2023

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PLANTING SEEDS OF ABUNDANCE: THE GIVING GROVE EXTENDS GRATITUDE TO KANSAS CITY
The Giving Grove reflects on Kansas City's impact in creating national model

Kansas City, MO – **The Giving Grove, a Kansas City-based national nonprofit, is thrilled to announce a remarkable achievement this fall as its network grows to 500 community orchards nationwide.** This significant milestone reflects the impact of an initiative that began with a group of innovative Kansas Citians in 2013.

The Giving Grove's volunteer founders were seeking a sustainable, Earth-friendly solution for food insecurity. **Their vision grew from the principles of community collaboration, growing where invited and reconnecting with nature.** As The Giving Grove found its footing in Kansas City, Kansas City Community Gardens (KCCG) graciously incubated and guided the program, offering invaluable insights into urban agriculture. With KCCG's help, the demand for Giving Grove orchards grew rapidly in just a few short years, with 250 community orchards now stretching across the city.

"It has been incredible to see so many dedicated volunteers across the Kansas City community embrace the idea of bringing orchards to their neighborhoods. KCCG is a proud member of the Giving Grove national network and honored to support an ever-growing network of Giving Grove orchards, located throughout the metro," says Jennifer Meyer, Executive Director of KCCG.

Inspired by this impact in Kansas City, The Giving Grove expanded to Omaha and St. Louis in 2018, then began a national expansion in 2019. These expansions are made possible by partnerships with local nonprofits that serve as orcharding resource hubs for their community. The dedicated staff of The Giving Grove national office works collaboratively with these local nonprofits to ensure that the knowledge and resources developed in Kansas City are available nationwide.

Today, The Giving Grove network serves 14 markets nationwide, from Atlanta to Seattle. Together, these partners have supported 500 neighborhoods in planting and maintaining community orchards and food forests. **"We're very proud of the fact that this national program has its roots in Kansas City. The generosity and entrepreneurial spirit found in Kansas City have created something very meaningful for neighborhoods nationwide,"** says Erica Kratofil, Giving Grove Co-Executive Director.

As we recognize this important milestone, The Giving Grove extends heartfelt "thank you" to the Kansas City community for its unwavering support of the "little orcharding program." We encourage everyone to celebrate the power of collaboration, innovation, and community-driven solutions and welcome opportunities to express gratitude to Kansas City through various media outlets.

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Giving Grove's vision is thousands of sustainable community orchards nationwide, creating local food systems that nourish people and the planet. Learn more at www.givinggrove.org.