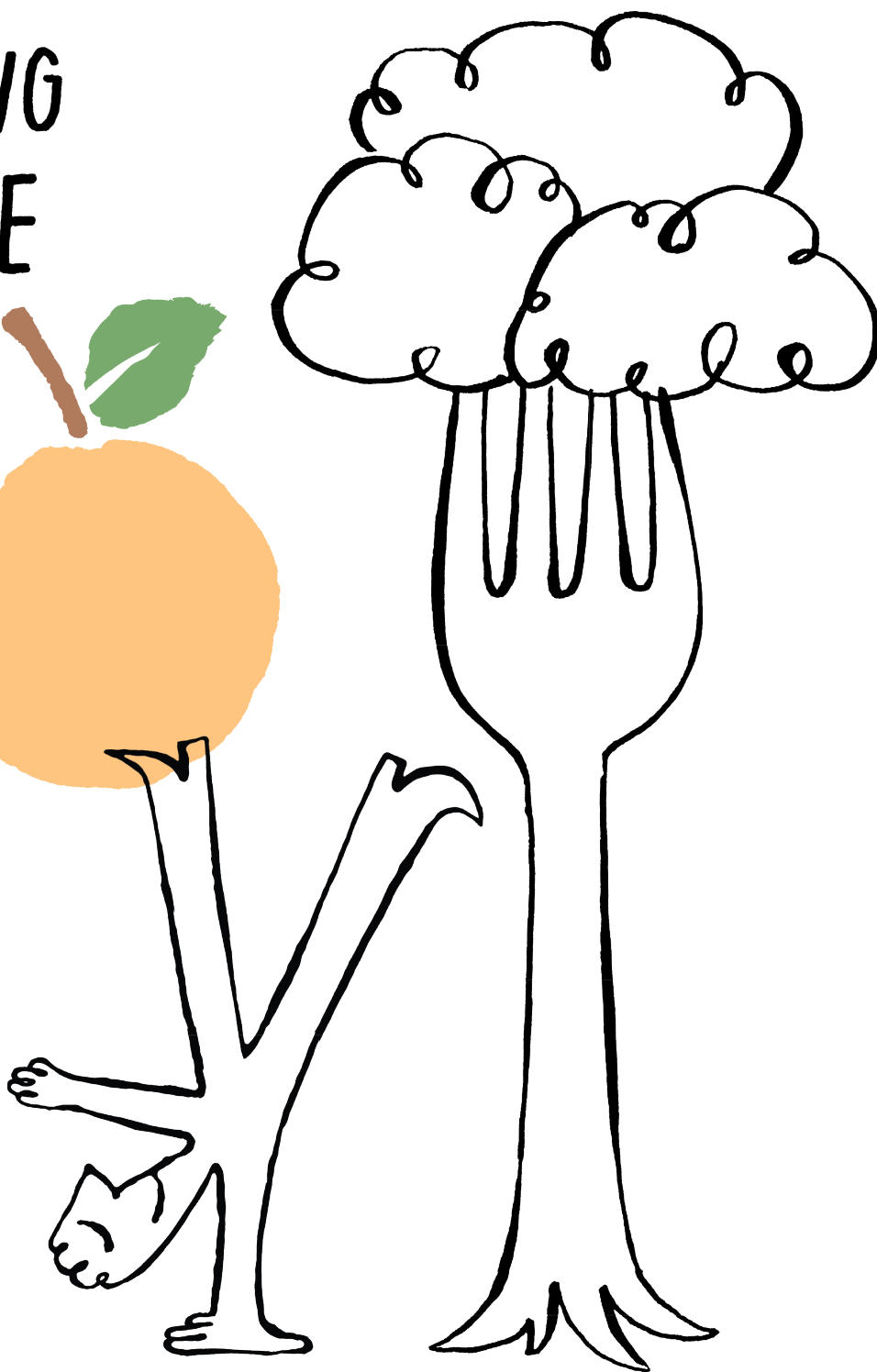
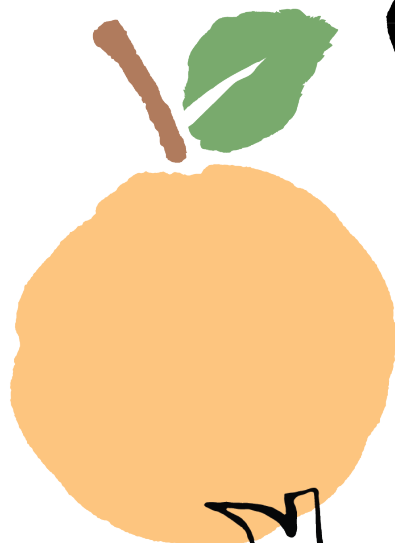


the  
GIVING  
GROVE



# LITTLE ORCHARDS BIG IMPACT

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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Our mission is to provide healthy calories, strengthen communities and improve the urban environment through a nationwide network of sustainable little orchards to dramatically improve access to healthy food.

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**MONEY MAY NOT GROW ON TREES, BUT THERE ARE MANY VALUABLE RESOURCES THAT DO. GIVING GROVE ORCHARDS GROW MORE THAN JUST FRUIT—THEY GROW HEALTH, COMMUNITY, SUSTAINABILITY AND MORE.**



# THE GIVING GROVE

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The Giving Grove launched in 2013 with a simple idea: working side-by-side with residents, we create “little” orchards, planted in neighborhoods that often have the least access to healthy, fresh foods.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends,

In 2020, as the pandemic and ongoing racial injustice gripped our world, an urban farmer in North St. Louis gathered two dozen volunteers to plant a Giving Grove orchard in a neighborhood where access to fresh food is waning and residents are all too familiar with trauma.

One year later, with the trees taking root and offering their first blooms, neighbors gather regularly in the orchard for wellness classes, yoga, and community building. “When you plant an orchard, there’s so much more than the trees that will grow,” Janett Lewis, orchard steward, shared. “Giving Grove is important to creating food access, to building community, to helping people understand the importance of these trees and what they’re going to do for you.”

Today, there are more than 300 of these little orchards taking root in six cities across the U.S., with more coming online each spring and fall. Each of these little orchards has a big story to tell. Together, they are weaving a powerful narrative of transformation, with neighborhood-led local food systems increasing food justice, strengthening communities, and improving the environment.

I am excited to announce that The Giving Grove will add four new affiliate partners to its network this winter, sharing its community orcharding model with Atlanta, Dallas, Denver and Seattle. Our new partners are already doing extraordinary work in their communities; we are thrilled to learn from them and to have you walk alongside us on this journey. I’m convinced more than ever that this network of mission-aligned community advocates will change our world.



Robert Reiman, CEO

# SUSTAINABILITY DOES GROW ON TREES

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Little orchards make neighborhoods cleaner, safer and more livable. Throughout its life, an orchard will improve air quality and soil health while eliminating food transit miles.

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## HORTICULTURE

“I appreciate Giving Grove’s holistic approach. The use of no chemicals means it’s safe for children and insects” - **Betsy Ruhe, Orchard Steward**

Plant variety selection has always been a key component to making The Giving Grove sites viable and sustainable. From the outset, we have focused on well-adapted, disease-resistant cultivars.

Our original use of 30 cultivars has expanded to nearly 70 cultivars representing 20 species of fruits and nuts. Pear and Asian pear represent an important option for neighborhoods due to their natural resistance to pest pressures and their abundant production. All too often grocery stores only supply fruit that is available year round, easily transported and have a long shelf life, causing many native varieties to wane in popularity. The Giving Grove uplifts our native plants and reintroduces them to communities.

This fall, Giving Grove partner Louisville Grows planted their first orchard in the Beechmont neighborhood, located in the most diverse zip code in the state of Kentucky. Orchard steward and former educator Betsy Ruhe said, “I’ve lived in this area for 20 years, and I used the interstate ramp right over there for about 15 [years]. And I would sit there at the light, and I would look at this field, and I just knew it had to be something. I had a vision of fruit trees blooming in the spring, and I decided I was going to make that a reality.” Along with the orchard, Betsy and volunteers will also plant a “green wall” to dampen noise pollution from the busy interstate, and a “scent garden” to attract pollinators in honor of a volunteer who was lost to COVID-19. “I appreciate Giving Grove’s holistic approach. The use of no chemicals means it’s safe for children and insects. This is an inclusive place, and that includes beings other than humans,” stated Betsy.







# COMMUNITY DOES GROW ON TREES

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Little orchards foster a sense of belonging. An orchard becomes a gathering space where food is shared, children play and neighbors grow closer.

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## WHO WE SERVE

Little orchards have the capacity to change neighborhoods. Once unused land becomes a gathering place for communities to grow and learn together. As their orchard grows, their relationships do as well. The act of caring for an urban orchard builds a community that is just as important as the fruit grown within it.

Nick Shaver and his family are residents of an intentional living community and dedicate their time to improving their neighborhood, Mt. Auburn, in Cincinnati. As a backyard gardener, he has been an advocate for urban orchards in his community. So far, Nick and his fellow volunteers have planted two orchards in their neighborhood. “[This land] used to be a vacant apartment building. It was razed. We took ownership of it. Now, we also put an orchard in there,” Nick shared. “Every time I walk by or drive by, I am always seeing kids playing in the [orchard], sitting on the benches, dogs being walked there all the time. So, what was a vacant lot now turns into a community location. It’s beautiful to watch.”

Giving Grove orchards are maintained by people who care deeply about their neighborhoods. Each orchard becomes a community asset. The orchards are grown by many types of communities; yet most of the produce goes directly to those who grow the food.

# SPOTLIGHT ON GROWTH

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Our replication approach is unconventional. Acting on the advice of industry experts, we seek to partner with existing community garden organizations across the country to create an aligned-action network of orcharding programs. This approach allows us to rapidly scale the program while leveraging our partners' existing resources, horticultural expertise, equipment and local funding.

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## KANSAS CITY COMMUNITY GARDENS, KANSAS CITY

Kansas City Community Gardens (KCCG), established over 35 years ago and home of the original Giving Grove program, empowers households, community groups, and schools to establish and sustain food-producing gardens and orchards.

Launched in 2013 – 220 sites – 3,696 trees – 2,657,446 annual servings



## SEED ST. LOUIS (FORMERLY GATEWAY GREENING), ST. LOUIS

Seed St. Louis has been serving the St. Louis region for 37 years by supporting community driven agricultural projects, including gardens and orchards, to create a city where people are connected to the land, to their food and to each other.

Launched 2017 – 49 sites – 503 trees – 274,769 annual servings



## THE BIG GARDEN, OMAHA

The Big Garden began in 2005 with the goal to create five community gardens. Today, it is reducing hunger by increasing access to fresh, healthy produce and teaching people to grow, cook and preserve their harvests through 200+ community gardens.

Launched 2018 – 23 sites – 214 trees – 159,677 annual servings



## LOUISVILLE GROWS, LOUISVILLE

Louisville Grows seeks to be a leader in advocating for health equity through the environmental platforms of urban forestry and urban agriculture. They are participants in the Green Heart Project, planting 8,000 trees to decrease health risks by reducing air pollution.

Launched 2021 – 1 site – 24 trees – 18,606 annual servings



## THE COMMON ORCHARD PROJECT, CINCINNATI

The **Common Orchard Project** is providing increased food access, tree canopy and community building by installing and maintaining urban orchards in neighborhoods that have experienced disinvestment.

**Launched 2021 – 14 sites – 183 trees – 122,966 annual servings**



## GROW NORTH TEXAS, DALLAS

**Grow North Texas** is creating a sustainable and secure regional food system that enriches the land through programs that encourage economic opportunity for farmers, support equitable access to healthy food, and strengthen sustainable agriculture.

**Launching Spring 2022**



## TILTH ALLIANCE, SEATTLE

**Tilth Alliance** was created when three urban agriculture and local growing organizations combined under one name. By uniting farmers, eaters, gardeners, cooks and environmental advocates, Tilth Alliance champions a sustainable food culture in Seattle.

**Launching Spring 2022**



## FOOD WELL ALLIANCE, ATLANTA

**Food Well Alliance** is a collaborative network of local leaders working together to build thriving community gardens and urban farms across metro Atlanta. Their mission is to provide resources and support to local growers to connect and build healthier communities.

**Launching Spring 2022**



## DENVER URBAN GARDENS, DENVER

**DUG** currently operates 190 community gardens throughout Metro Denver, including more than 70 school-based community gardens. They provide the access, skills, and resources for people to grow healthy food in community and regenerate urban green spaces.

**Launching Spring 2022**



## MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Initial plantings began in 2020, and includes 13 little orchards installed at schools, existing community gardens, neighborhoods, communities of faith, medical facilities and youth services.

# KNOWLEDGE DOES GROW ON TREES

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Little orchards help children reach their full potential. It's easier to concentrate with a full stomach. When kids get all the calories they need, they're able to focus and perform better.

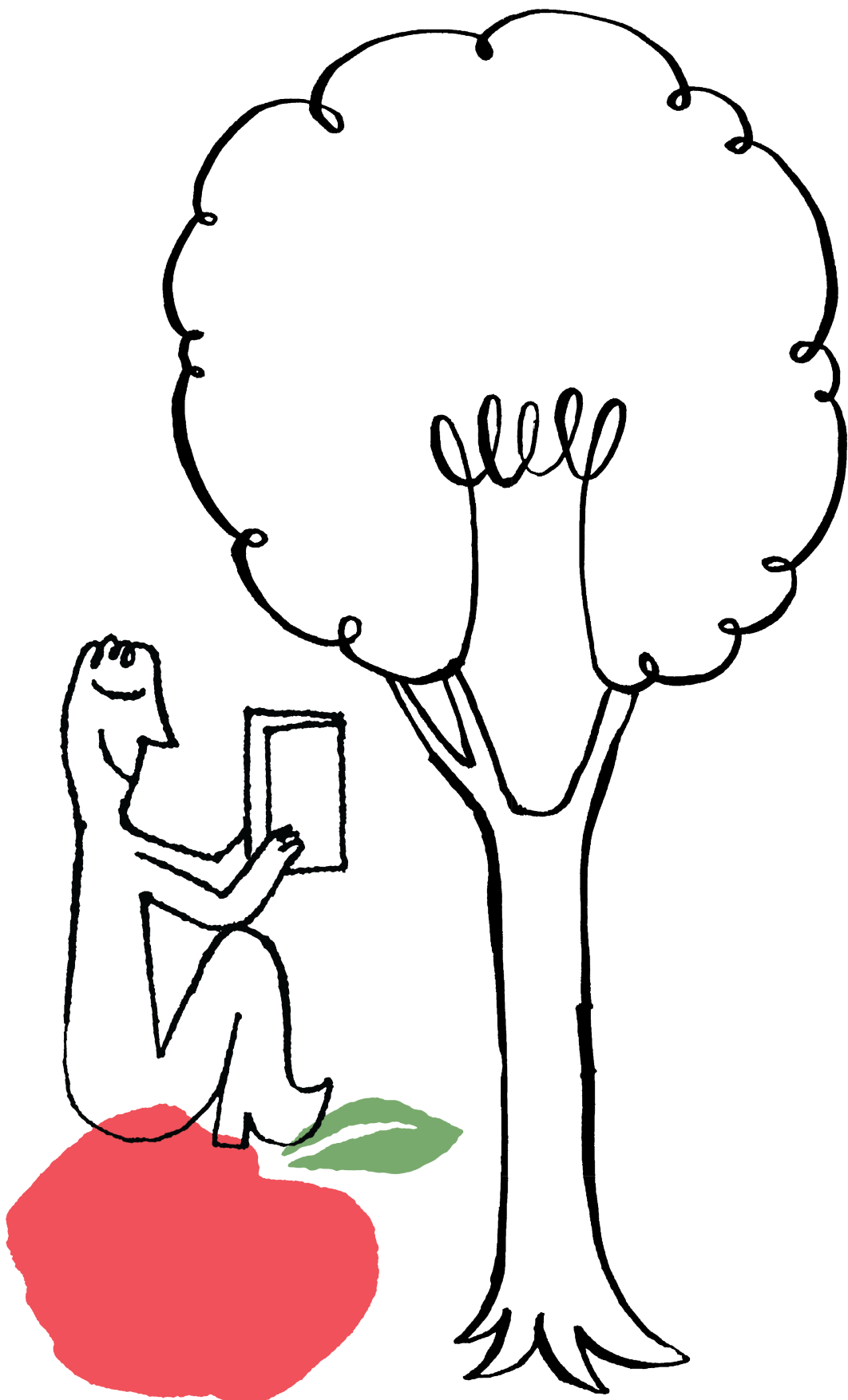
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## SCHOOL ORCHARDS

**"It's this natural progression of learning. No one has to come out and hand them a worksheet or a book." - School orchard coordinator**

Schools are a natural fit for our horticultural curriculum. Teachers share the importance of healthy eating while wooing young minds with the taste of homegrown fruit. More than a quarter of all orchards are located at schools, touching thousands of students.

A schoolyard orchard helps children connect with nature and learn the real origins of fresh food. Through hands-on experience in the orchard, students develop a fundamental understanding of how to grow their own food at home while also learning important life lessons. Said one school garden coordinator, "It's this natural progression of learning. No one has to come out and hand them a worksheet or a book. They just experience, and they learn about seasons and harvests and caring for fruit trees and brambles. And, it's pretty exciting to see kids want to be [in the orchard] even more than they want to be playing basketball or going down the slide."





# HEALTH DOES GROW ON TREES

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Fruits, berries and nuts add healthy calories and variety to food insecure diets, while orchards increase tree canopy and create healthy outdoor green spaces for recreation.

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## WHY THIS WORK IS IMPORTANT

Hunger is a chronic challenge in the U.S., with more than 46 million Americans receiving emergency food assistance in a typical year. The problem worsened in 2020, with the pandemic creating food insecurity for more than 50 million Americans, including 17 million children. Research demonstrates that food insecurity has a negative impact on health outcomes; obesity, high blood pressure and diabetes are associated with a lack of access to healthy, nutrient-rich food. For children, early experiences of food insecurity can result in lifelong consequences including anemia, asthma, oral health problems, lower reading and mathematics scores, hyperactivity, aggression and anxiety.

With the support of Giving Grove affiliate Kansas City Community Gardens, Hope Faith Homeless Assistance Campus in Kansas City planted a Giving Grove orchard in the fall of 2021. Hope Faith works to alleviate homelessness and poverty in Kansas City, Missouri, by providing basic necessities and assistance and providing critical services and programs to empower individuals experiencing homelessness and at-risk individuals to become self-sufficient and independent.

Hope Faith's orchard is part of their Hope Grows Urban Farming Initiative. This initiative is designed to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to their guests experiencing homelessness while also providing vocational opportunities to participants that will help them obtain a career in an agricultural field. "This has been on my 'wants list' for over 3 years. We are so excited for this budding (pun intended) relationship to really grow," stated Jaysen Van Sickle, Hope Grows Executive Director.

By reducing pollution and lowering temperatures, trees can prevent asthma, acute respiratory illnesses and heat-related emergencies like cardiac arrest and heatstroke.

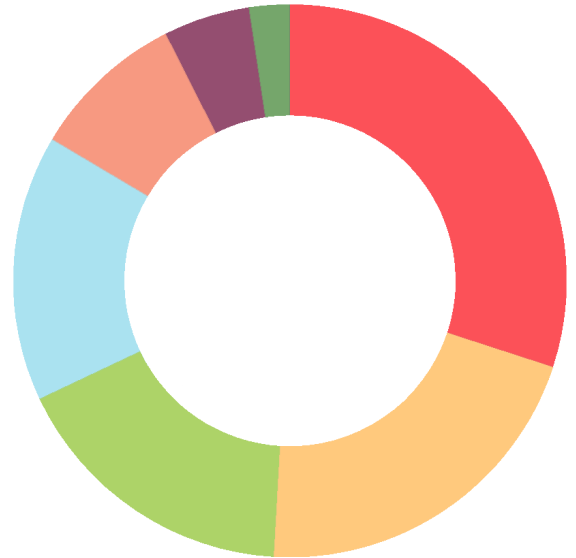
# LITTLE ORCHARDS

**10 CITIES**  
**330 ORCHARDS**  
**4,803 FRUIT & NUT TREES**  
**3.35 MILLION NUTRITIOUS SERVINGS PER YEAR**

# BIG IMPACT



• Schools	87
• Neighborhoods	64
• Communities of Faith	61
• Community Gardens	34
• Municipalities & Parks	18
• Individual Homeowners	17
• Youth Services	15
• Food Pantry/Kitchen	12
• Transitional Living	9
• Health or Medical Facilities	8
• Senior Housing	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>330</b>



• Apples	1,354
• Asian Pear	943
• Pear	769
• Cherry	703
• Peach	407
• Jujube	228
• Paw Paw	108
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,512</b>



# JOIN THE MOVEMENT

The Giving Grove, Inc. is creating a movement in communities across America. Together, we will:

- Grow healthy produce in urban neighborhoods where it is needed most
- Strengthen the resilience of urban communities that are vulnerable to social and environmental injustice
- Create a healthier urban environment

With six cities already planting, the movement has launched and will grow by two to three cities each year. Our target cities have a large food insecure population AND a growing organization capable of adding an orchard program.

If your city or growing organization is interested in joining this movement, let's start a conversation today.



## Giving Grove Cities

Kansas City	Memphis
St. Louis	Louisville
Omaha	Cincinnati



## Joining in 2022

Atlanta
Dallas
Denver
Seattle



## Potential Sites

Birmingham	Little Rock
Boston	Nashville
Chicago	Portland
Detroit	Salt Lake City
Hartford	Toledo

# FINANCIALS

Just as we emphasize the importance of strong stewardship for each little orchard, we also believe in good stewardship of the financial resources that make this possible.

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## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES\*

Year Ended September 30, 2021

### INCOME

Foundations	\$ 248,293
Individual Donors	\$ 105,217
In-Kind Contributions	\$ 81,807
Carryover from Giving Grove Expansion Funds	\$ 72,227
Federal Grant Funding	\$ 50,636
Other Income	\$ 43,800
Plants and Other Sales	\$ 23,398
Corporate Donors	\$ 3,375

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<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 628,753</b>
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### EXPENSES

Salaries, Wages & Benefits	\$ 342,679
Affiliate Grants & Awards	\$ 103,677
Marketing/Outreach, Including In-Kind Advertising	\$ 96,182
Office, General & Administrative	\$ 46,693
Professional Services	\$ 36,330
Other Fees & Expenses	\$ 3,192

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<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 628,753</b>
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# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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The Giving Grove Board offers the expertise needed to develop a strong business plan, the passion to grow health equity and environmental justice and the commitment to support our transition to a nationally impactful organization.

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Greg Finkle – President, Giving Grove Co-founder  
President, Finkle+Williams Architecture

Kevin Birzer – Treasurer, Giving Grove Co-founder  
Chief Executive, TortoiseEcofin

Gordon Braun – Secretary  
Managing Director, Protiviti

Jill Quigley – Trustee at Large  
Retired clinical nurse specialist and former member of the Kansas House of Representatives

Ben Sharda – Affiliate Representative  
Executive Director, Kansas City Community Gardens

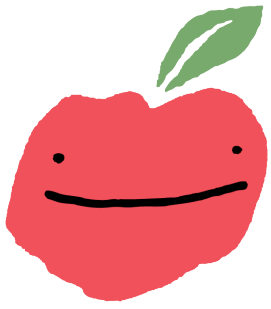
Oscar Tshibanda – Trustee  
Managing Partner, Tshibanda Associates LLC

Yolanda Young - Trustee  
Missouri House of Representatives & Young Family Farm Developer

Todd Moore - Trustee  
Founder of Heartland Regional Health Equity Conference

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Ray Makalous – Emeritus, Co-founder, Retired



the  
GIVING  
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