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#### KANSAS CITY NONPROFIT ANNOUNCES EXPANSION INTO CINCINNATI

*Giving Grove orchards provide free fruits, nuts and berries for neighborhoods facing food insecurity*

Kansas City, MO- The Giving Grove, a Kansas City-based nonprofit serving food insecure communities, announces today it will expand to Cincinnati through a partnership with Green Umbrella. Green Umbrella, located in Cincinnati, strives to lead collaboration, incubate ideas and catalyze solutions that create resilience and sustainability for its region.

Since its launch in 2013, The Giving Grove has planted 273 orchards across the United States that provide free, holistically-grown fruits, nuts and berries for communities with high rates of food insecurity. Giving Grove's mission is to provide healthy calories, strengthen community, and improve the environment through a nationwide network of sustainable little orchards that dramatically increase access to healthy foods.

"The power of the Giving Grove model is that it allows our affiliates, such as Green Umbrella, to adapt our program to fit the local community's needs. The compounding effect of shared knowledge and best practices between affiliates ensures that we are operating at our highest capacity, feeding more people and creating more environmentally-friendly community space," said Giving Grove CEO Rob Reiman.

After finding success with its model in Kansas City, The Giving Grove began expanding to other cities with high food insecurity rates, launching affiliate programs in St. Louis and Omaha in 2017, and Memphis, Louisville, and rural Kansas in 2020. Giving Grove's expansion plans include launching affiliates in 14 more U.S. cities by 2025.

At full implementation, Giving Grove orchards will reach 15% of all food insecure Americans. The typical Giving Grove orchard will produce more than 10,570 servings of holistically-grown, free, healthy foods worth nearly \$9,000 each year. With a 50-60+ year lifespan, each orchard will produce over its lifetime more than 232,000 servings of food for people in need while sequestering carbon, reducing stormwater runoff, and providing urban tree canopy.

"The entrepreneurial spirit and generosity found in Kansas City has allowed The Giving Grove to thrive," said Kevin Birzer, CEO of TortoiseEcofin and Giving Grove co-founder and Board Chair. "Today, we are delighted to partner with Green Umbrella to share what we've learned and bring the Giving Grove model to another community facing food insecurity."

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Giving Grove's vision is thousands of little orchards in food insecure urban neighborhoods across the nation, creating a local food production system that feeds people for decades.

Learn more at [www.givinggrove.org](http://www.givinggrove.org).