



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 26, 2021

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ASHLEY WILLIAMSON AND ADRIENNE RUNNEBAUM JOIN THE GIVING GROVE
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, is thrilled to announce today the addition of Ashley Williamson as Chief Replication Officer and Adrienne Runnebaum, as Special Projects Manager, for the national team.

Williamson brings with her local and international experience in program development, community engagement, and research. She has a master's in Social Work Advocacy, Policy, and Administration from the University of Kansas. As a dedicated Kansas City community member, she is continuously involved in board and leadership programs throughout the city. In this new role as Chief Replication Officer, she will be responsible for developing and maintaining The Giving Grove's growing network of affiliate programs.

With her background in program development and leadership, Runnebaum brings to The Giving Grove professional experiences in the areas of nonprofit management, education, and business. She is passionate about service and investing in our communities through meaningful engagement and sustainable resources and opportunities. She received her MBA and Business Management degrees from Emporia State University. The Giving Grove is currently developing systems and programs to make orcharding more convenient and accessible. As the Special Projects Manager, Runnebaum will manage the development and implementation of these systems.

"I couldn't be happier to have Ashley and Adrienne join our team. The rich experience and passion for building resilient, food secure, and socially-just communities will help us expand our program in new and exciting ways," says Rob Reiman, Giving Grove CEO.

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, Memphis and Louisville in 2020, and Cincinnati in early 2021. **"Continued growth of our Giving Grove Affiliate Network means growth for our homegrown national office as well. We are so grateful to the Kansas City community for nurturing The Giving Grove and helping us build an organization that is changing the narrative around hunger and environmental health,"** said Keven Birzer, CEO of TortoiseEcofin and Giving Grove Board Chair.

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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.