Program Requirements

• Complete the sign up form
  • Only requirement for eligibility in accessing special grants
• At least 3 team members and lay led
• Core Training completed by at least 3 team members within two years of sign up
• Annual renewal
Important Upcoming Deadlines

• Healthy Congregations Reports and Needs Assessments
  ◦ Due July 15

• Workplans
  ◦ Due August 31
Expanded Vision for Healthy Congregations
Existing Special Grant Opportunities

• Big Gardens (up to $2,700) one time grant
  • Apply as soon possible
• Summer Food Service Program (up to $2,000) one time grant
• Bike Share in a Box Program
  • Coordinated and supported by Thrive Allen County
  • 5 sites
  • up to 5 bikes/ site
  • Application available by request
• Good Neighbor Experiment
  • New cohort anticipated to begin in the fall 2020 (virtual)
Expanded Special Grant Opportunities

• Faith in Democracy
  ◦ Voter to Voter engagement opportunity
  ◦ Supported by a nonpartisan nonprofit dedicated supporting Kansas Healthy Congregations teams in ensuring their members and those in their communities are able to access the polls

• Financial Health
  ◦ Anticipating promotion coming soon to announce virtual trainings available later this year

• Mental Health First Aid
  ◦ Regional trainings TBD (dependent on pandemic)
Questions?

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Program Coordinator
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The Giving Grove Program

Molly Baurain
KS Coordinator
Hunger in America

Even in the world’s greatest food-producing nation, children and adults face poverty and hunger in every county across America.

- More than 37 million people struggle with hunger in the United States, including more than 11 million children.

- 1 in 8 adults in KS struggle with hunger.

- 1 in 5 children in KS struggle with hunger.

- More than 38 million people are living in poverty in America.
The coronavirus pandemic has left millions of families without stable employment.

More than 54 million people, including 18 million children, may experience **food insecurity** in 2020.

Children are more likely to face food insecurity than any other group in the United States.

More than half (56%) of food-insecure households participated in at least one of the major federal food assistance program — the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (**SNAP**, formerly Food Stamps); the **National School Lunch Program** and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (often called **WIC**)
Our Objective:

- Inspiring and empowering communities to grow their own nutritious fruit, nuts and berries.

Little orchards
Big IMPACT
Giving Grove Program

- Kansas City-based network of orcharding programs, with a mission to provide healthy calories, strengthen communities, and improve the environment through sustainable little orchards which dramatically increase access to healthy food.

- Started in 2011, as a partnership with Kansas City Community Gardens, to start small fruit orchards on vacant lots, churches, schools, and community centers around the Kansas City area.

- Expanded their reach to Memphis, TN, St. Louis, MO and Omaha, NE in the past few years.

- Nationwide- helped plant 241 orchards across four states, equating to more than 55 million pounds of fresh produce.
Orchard Site Statistics

- Average Orchard Site contains **14 trees**.
- Average Fruit Baskets per site: **288**
- Value: **$5,700**
  
  **FREE**
Benefits of a Community Orchard

- Increases consumption of fruits and access to healthy foods.
- Reduces household food dollars (fruit prices up 40%).
- Offers a restored connection to food production.
- Fosters new relationships (multi-cultural and intergenerational).
- Provides an opportunity to learn new skills.
- Increases green space and neighborhood beautification. May reduce crime.
- Gathering space for gardeners and neighbors.
- Increases a sense of community ownership and stewardship.
The Big Garden: Cultivating food security one garden at a time.
The Big Garden- Scope of Work

- Community Gardens
- Giving Grove
- Growing Gardeners Workshop Series
- Mobile Kitchen
- Grow-Your-Own Program
- New Roots Internship
- Garden to Table
- Farm to School
- Volunteers in Mission
- Farmers Market Tours
How to Get an Orchard this Fall!

- Application on The Big Garden Website. [www.biggarden.org](http://www.biggarden.org) or email Molly Baurain at [mbaurain@biggarden.org](mailto:mbaurain@biggarden.org)

- Once approved, 2 self-appointed Orchard Stewards must be in place.

- Stewards must attend Stewardship Training this fall.

- Stewardship Training covers tree planting, watering, pruning, pest management, harvesting, and overall tree care.

- Tree stewards agree to ongoing training and maintenance of the orchard for the lifetime of the trees.

- Ongoing maintenance includes: watering, weeding, pest scouting/removal, pruning, spraying, fruit thinning, tree training, harvesting fruit, mulching, fertilizing, and distributing food.

- Location is ready to be planted this fall.
Who Qualifies:

- One of the partners must be a United Methodist Church in Kansas. The orchard does not have to be on the church property, but a KS UM church must be a core partner to qualify for this grant opportunity.

- Do NOT need be an existing Healthy Congregation site to apply for a Giving Grove orchard through The Big Garden.

- If you are interested in a community orchard through this grant opportunity and currently are not a Healthy Congregation church, please contact Katie Schoenhoff or Dashinika Poindexter at United Methodist Health Ministry Fund to apply.
What The Big Garden Offers

- Initial Site Visit
- Planting Day Logistics and Support
  - Fruit trees and brambles for FREE! Each site will receive between 8-10 trees, depending on size and location.
  - Mulch, compost, soil amendments, tree supports, tree cages & wraps, and fertilizer for initial planting.
  - The necessary Tools and Supplies needed for planting day and orchard maintenance.
- Holistic Spray Ingredients
- Stewardship Training and Ongoing Training Opportunities
- Assist in soliciting volunteer labor to help plant and establish the orchard.
What Partner Site Must Provide

- Accessible land for long-term use
- Community and site buy-in
- 2 Orchard Stewards
- Access to a water supply
- Community volunteers
- Must be willing to donate a portion of the produce to food pantries, homeless shelters, or communities with limited resources.
- Watering hose and wand
- Garden gloves and any other individual gardening supplies
Site Visit Needed for Approval

- Assess Feasibility and Proper location for an orchard (light, slope, soil quality, etc.)
- Storage and Water Accessibility/Needs
- Orchard Design
- Discuss Variety Recommendations for Disease Resistance
- Logistics of Planting Day
- Volunteer Labor Needs: Average 1 volunteer per tree planted.
- Commitment of 2 Site Stewards, attending stewardship training and ongoing training.
Fruit Trees, Brambles, & Nuts

- **Apple:** Pristine, Liberty, Enterprise, William’s Pride, Goldrash
- **Pear:** Asian and European
- **Peach:** Desiree, All-Star, Starfire
- **Bush Cherry:** Crimson Passion, Romeo, Juliet
- **June-bearing Strawberry:** “Cavedish”
- **Thornless Blackberry:** “Natchez”
- **Red Raspberry:** “Heritage”
- **Jujube, Paw Paw, Persimmon, Aronia, and Fig**
- **Pecan**
- **Chestnut**
Contact Information

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Questions