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KANSAS CITY NONPROFIT ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH TREE PITTSBURGH Giving Grove orchards provide free fruits, nuts and berries for neighborhoods facing food insecurity.

Who: The Giving Grove National Network **Where:** Pittsburgh, PA

What: Program expansion into Pittsburgh When: Planting begins in 2023

Kansas City, MO- The Giving Grove, a Kansas City-based nonprofit serving communities facing food insecurity, announces today that it will expand to Pittsburgh, PA, through a partnership with Tree Pittsburgh. **"We are excited to welcome Tree Pittsburgh into our national network! With decades of experience in supporting urban tree projects, their team brings significant expertise to our collaboration,"** said Giving Grove Co-Executive Director Ashley Williamson. **"Much consideration went into creating our shared goals for this program, which include resources for both new and existing orchard sites that will benefit people and the planet."**

Founded in Kansas City in 2013, The Giving Grove began expanding nationally in 2017 and now supports urban orcharding programs across the U.S. in collaboration with a robust network of local partners. Through this network, more than 800 volunteers serve as urban orchard stewards, caring for the orchards that nourish their local communities for decades. The typical Giving Grove orchard will produce more than 8,700 servings of organically grown, free, fresh foods worth more than \$8,500 annually.

"Tree Pittsburgh is excited to join the Giving Grove network to support existing community orchards and assist communities in establishing new orchards. Planting fruit trees not only provides a source of fresh, healthy food, but community orchards also create space for residents to gather and foster relationships that can create a positive ripple effect," says Danielle Crumrine, Tree Pittsburgh Executive Director. "The Giving Grove program will complement and support the work of organizations like Grow Pittsburgh, Black Urban Gardeners, and the many community gardeners across Allegheny County who work so hard to empower people to grow their own food."

The Giving Grove programs equip neighborhood volunteers to plant and care for fruit trees, nut trees, and berry brambles that improve the urban environment, increase tree canopy, and provide a sustainable source of free, organically-grown food for neighborhoods facing high rates of food insecurity. Currently, over 480 Giving Grove urban orchards serve 13 cities nationwide, from Atlanta to Seattle. The typical orchard sequesters 29 tons of carbon and removes more than 195 pounds of pollution from the air while also intercepting stormwater and stabilizing urban soil.

PCNA, based in Pittsburgh, is helping to fund this program expansion through its 1% for the Planet partnership with The Giving Grove. PCNA has committed 1% of sales from its eco-product line to support nonprofit environmental partners like The Giving Grove.

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Giving Grove's vision is thousands of little orchards in food-insecure urban neighborhoods nationwide, creating a local food production system that feeds people for decades. Learn more at www.givinggrove.org.