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Move grass. Grow food.**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VICTORY GARDEN INITIATIVE ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 5 NEW COMMUNITY ORCHARDS

MILWAUKEE. Monday, March 10, 2014 — Last month, Victory Garden Initiative (VGI) gave a little more hope that spring is coming soon: They announced the **winners of five new community orchards** that will be planted in April.

All communities in Milwaukee County were encouraged to apply to **cultivate beautiful local food sources and pockets of edible abundance** in the city we call home. Of many applicants, VGI's Fruity Nutty 5 Committee chose: All People's Church in the Harambee Neighborhood, Vincent High School on the Northwest Side, the King Park Neighborhood and Highland Community School, Bay View, and Gingerbread Lane in Harambee to steward the growth of fruit- and nut-producing plants in their neighborhoods for generations to come. Walker's Point was runner up and will receive a smaller award. In total 150 plants will get growing this spring to feed their communities.

VGI builds communities that grow their own food, creating a **community-based, sustainable, nutritious food system**. Planting these five (and a half!) orchards is key to that fruitful work. The winning groups will receive up to 30 fruit and nut producing plants each: hazelnuts, cherries, peaches, pears, apples, plums, raspberries, blackberries, serviceberries, currants, and more.

"Highland is committed to implementing our Montessori curriculum on a working farm, as Dr. Maria Montessori intended, and we thank the Victory Garden Initiative for helping us come closer to reaching this goal," said Kathleen Ronco, Executive Director of the Highland Community School, one of the main partners in the King Park neighborhood. Stephanie Calloway of CORE/El Centro, organizer of the 2013 winning Walker's Point neighborhood, recalled "This was such a great opportunity to meet neighbors and have a tangible project to improve the long-term health of our neighborhood. It was a win-win!"

Neighborhood orchards provide more than delicious, natural, local fruits and nuts—though they do that well. They cultivate roots for closer communities. They supplement grocery bills. They get our neighbors outside, enjoying and preserving our environment.

This year's Fruity Nutty 5 Contest launched on December 10, 2013, and winners were announced at the Fruity Nutty Affair on February 22, 2014. Apply next winter and win your own orchard! To learn more, go to VictoryGardenInitiative.org/fruitynutty or call (414) 431-0888.

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About Victory Garden Initiative:

Victory Garden Initiative promotes a sustainable and socially just food system by building communities of people who grow their own food, reintegrating human and food ecology. The scope of Victory Garden's educational programs and urban agricultural projects encompass a complete cycle: from soil, to seed, to plate, and composting back to soil – in back yards, front yards, rooftops and on patios.