

🍂 GROWFEST 2026 Highlights ♡ 🍂

315+ visitors attended GROWFEST and an enjoyable time was had by all!



Visitors enjoyed shopping, delicious treats from our food vendors, and live music from Sam Joens. Children had fun coloring, playing fall-themed games, and searching for spooky gnomes throughout the orchard.

🍎 Food & merchandise vendors put "fest" in GROWFEST 🍎



🎃 Mums, pumpkins, gourds, live music, and other activities for visitors to enjoy 🎵





🌸 Dried & cut fresh flowers, farm hand in training and apples for sale 🍏



MEET THE ORCHARD ALL-STARS



Core Crew members could be found throughout the orchard helping visitors at GROWFEST '26



**Orchard Pop-up coming
Saturday, November 28!**



GROWING TOGETHER

Welcome to **GROWING TOGETHER**, a GROW feature introducing the volunteers, board members, employees, committee members, Core Crew members, donors, and an occasional surprise guest who help GROW bloom and thrive!



Meet: Lucie

When GROW was just an idea, a partnership with Feed Iowa First (FIF) was beginning to take root. Over the next two years, that idea grew into a plan when FIF Interim Director Alora Kraus identified Lucie as the ideal farmer to pilot the partnership. Originally from the Congo, Lucie has lived in the U.S. for 20 years. She and her husband have nine children, ages 7–23. Lucie dreamed of growing as much of her own food as possible but lacked access to land. That changed when she met Alora and the FIF team, who connected her with GROW. With that, a promising partnership took root, and Lucie's growing season began!

What made Kazimour Orchard an ideal place for your farming needs?

The orchard is very close to my house and easy to get to, which makes taking care of my garden easier than where I used to farm. And everyone here is so nice and helpful!

What motivated you to participate in this program?

I needed garden space to grow food to feed my family. I have a large family and do not need to buy so much when I can grow our food. I heard about the Feed Iowa First program at Cedar Hills Community Church, and they helped me find a good space for my garden.

What crops did you choose to plant?

I planted corn and beans and had a very good crop of beans. I grew enough for my family and shared a lot with friends. We cook the beans and add rice and spices. It is so good!

Next year I will grow food from my country including beans, a little bit of tomatoes and also two different green leaf plants. Also, a vegetable that's almost like a tomato and almost like a cucumber, but it's not like a tomato or a cucumber.

GROWING TOGETHER



Were there any problems or challenges with your garden this year?

Critters eating my crops!

What do you feel went well during this pilot year at GROW?

Everyone is so nice and helpful! I had help getting the field ready and watering. The land is perfect for growing and easy to get to and the space is good for what we grow.

How has this experience impacted you personally, your farming goals, or your connection to the community?

We were able to grow so much that I shared with friends. We had a fun time making dinner for friends and sharing the beans.

How many pounds of beans did you grow?

We filled a deep freeze which is a year's worth of food plus enough to share.

Did you like this experience?

Yes! I want to farm here again next year!



Grow: Growing Real Opportunities for Work

GROW is a non-profit that empowers individuals living with challenges by providing valuable employment skills through meaningful work in horticulture.

Visit GrowWithKazimour.org to learn more about us