



3RD ANNUAL

HARVEST DINNER

SEPTEMBER 24, 2026
GARY COMER YOUTH CENTER

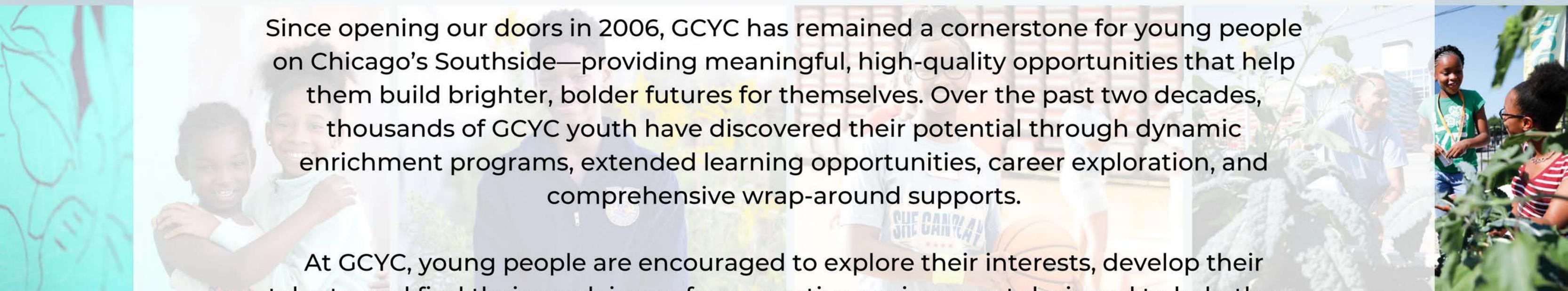


ABOUT



Gary Comer Youth Center

2026 marks the 20th anniversary of the Gary Comer Youth Center.



Since opening our doors in 2006, GCYC has remained a cornerstone for young people on Chicago's Southside—providing meaningful, high-quality opportunities that help them build brighter, bolder futures for themselves. Over the past two decades, thousands of GCYC youth have discovered their potential through dynamic enrichment programs, extended learning opportunities, career exploration, and comprehensive wrap-around supports.



At GCYC, young people are encouraged to explore their interests, develop their talents, and find their spark in a safe, supportive environment designed to help them grow into confident, capable, and independent young adults. Our holistic programming spans six core domains: Academic Success, Arts & Technology, Culinary Arts & Nutrition, Sports & Leadership, Urban Agriculture, and Violence Interruption. Together, these programs form a powerful ecosystem that empowers youth to thrive today—and well into their futures.

ABOUT HARVEST DINNER

Harvest Dinner is GCYC's marquee annual fundraising celebration—an immersive, joyful evening that showcases the talent, leadership, and creativity of our young people. The entire event is built around their hard work, their voices, and their vision for a brighter future.

Guests are welcomed to Campus with a twilight cocktail hour, where they enjoy vibrant, farm-fresh small bites and signature cocktails inspired by GCYC's gardens. From there, youth leaders in the Comer FFA Chapter guide guests on an interactive tour of our rooftop garden and hydroponics lab; offering firsthand stories, insights, and expertise that bring our mission to life in a powerful and personal way.

The evening continues at the GCYC Food Sovereignty Hub, our 1.75-acre youth-led farm and learning center. Here, GCYC apprentices collaborate with distinguished Chicago mentor chefs to create a multi-course, farm-to-table dining experience featuring produce grown and harvested by our young people. Each dish highlights their skills, creativity, and commitment to community food leadership.

Harvest Dinner is an inspiring opportunity for supporters to experience the impact of GCYC youth programs up close, celebrate the next generation of leaders, and help fuel the opportunities that allow young people to grow, thrive, and shape lasting change in their communities.



OUR IMPACT

2,600

youth & families served in 2025

97%

of youth feel
connected to their
instructors

\$1M+

paid to youth in
stipends and wages

96%

of youth feel like
they matter when
in programs

350

hours of service
learning at local
food pantries

98%

of youth gained
career
development skills

16,000

pounds of food
harvested from our
farm and campus
gardens

92%

of youth gained
skills to improve
their mental health

15,400

Free meals served
to youth

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

RECOGNITION

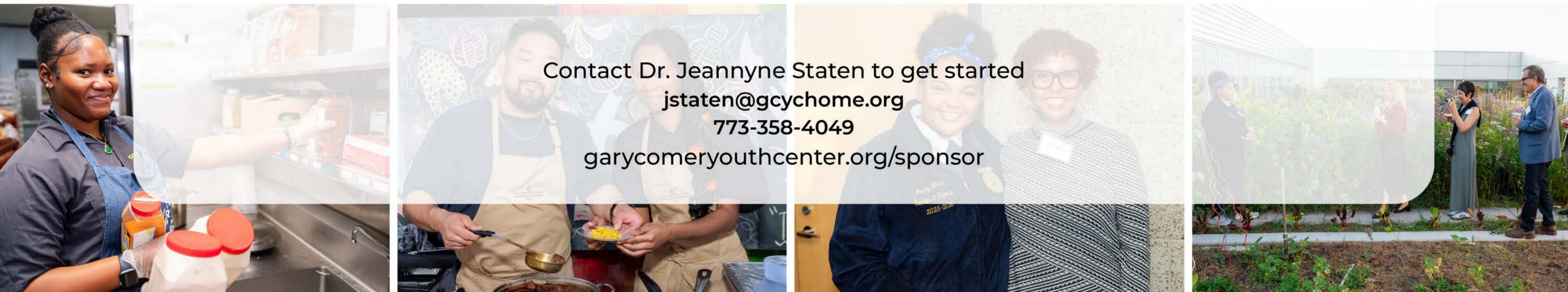
	PRESENTING \$50k	PLATINUM \$30k	GOLD \$20k	SILVER \$15k	BRONZE \$5k
Event Tickets	12 Premium Location	10 Premium Location	10 Assigned Table	8	5
Digital Recognition	Website Social Media	Website Social Media	Website Social Media	Website Social Media	Website
Invitation Recognition	Printed Digital	Printed Digital	Printed Digital	Digital	Digital
Event Signage	Printed Digital	Printed Digital	Digital	Digital	Digital
GCCY Engagement	Choose 2: Group volunteer experience, campus tour, or presentation	Group volunteer experience, campus tour, or presentation	Group volunteer experience or campus tour	Group campus tour	
Press Release Recognition	X	X	X		
Event Speaker	During Dinner Program	During Cocktail Hour			



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BECOME A **CHAMPION** FOR YOUTH



Contact Dr. Jeannayne Staten to get started
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garycomeryouthcenter.org/sponsor