

A black silhouette of the Chicago skyline, featuring the Willis Tower as the most prominent structure, set against a white background.

COMMON GROUND FOUNDATION





MISSION STATEMENT

The Common Ground Foundation is dedicated to developing youth in underserved communities to be contributing citizens and strong leaders.

FOUNDATION OVERVIEW

The Common Ground Foundation will be involved in a number of exciting and impactful activities in 2011 that will benefit the youth of Chicago and beyond.

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PROGRAMS WE SERVE

CGF/LIGHTHOUSE YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Common Ground Foundation is dedicated to the empowerment and leadership development of urban youth.

It is the goal of the Foundation to create an environment that will foster the desire for knowledge, which in turn will lead to informed decision making. Our programs focus on empowering youth through the following:

The Common Ground Foundation is hosting its pilot programs at the Lighthouse Youth Center located at 4338 S. Prairie in Chicago, IL. This vision is one that with the right support and funding can be the onset of several Leadership centers across the United States. Our goal was to begin with two pilot programs (summer and fall sessions), with efforts expanding into winter and spring sessions, thus leading to our holistic education and leadership programs being offered year-round.

The Common Ground Foundation's Lighthouse summer and fall programs are intended to provide youth with the fundamental principles of holistic leadership and education. Throughout the duration of each 6-12 week program, courses will engage students in activities that educate them about leading healthy lives, acquiring valuable life skills, utilizing technological resources, and exploring their creative gifts in arts and music. The overall goal of students' participation in this leadership program will be to empower and equip them to be contributing citizens in their world.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The vision of these pilot programs is to raise awareness and engage the involvement of friends and supporters of the Common Ground Foundation. Our hope is to aid in the remedy of the increasing educational and violence crisis surrounding our youth in Chicago. There is a dire need for ongoing financial support, volunteers, and strategic partnerships with larger, well-established programs saluting youth empowerment and education,



as this population has been largely underserved. Both COMMON and the Board of Directors are passionate about this new initiative of our Foundation, and our goal is to promote and inspire others to grab hold of this vision for our Chicago youth, and progressively expand this vision to build various youth leadership programs across the United States.

OUR PROGRAM IS DESIGNED IN THE FOLLOWING PARTS, WHICH REPRESENT THE DIFFERENT COURSES OFFERED:

- Healthy Living - which includes health education, healthy food and cooking options, and healthy lifestyle choices for teens. The overarching goal of our curriculum is to be an introduction to the concept of "holistic health," primarily focused on healthy cooking. Sessions will also provide additional health education, encourage goal setting, and informed decision making to better enhance the quality of their overall lives.
- Fitness - This class will explore various mediums of athletic exercise, the importance of team sports, cardiovascular workout options, and creative workouts such as dance, which will also be incorporated in our programs.
- Surviving and Thriving in Today's Society - An exploration of character, self-love and esteem, leadership, and life-skills development. Students will learn examples of how life experiences build character. Girls & Boys will be taught individually.
- Creative Writing/ Music & Entertainment - Exploring students' creative gifts and self-expression. Students will understand how your "art" can make

an impact on your world, and will work toward creating their own masterpiece in whatever artistic medium they choose. In the Music & Entertainment course students will be introduced to music, art, film, and theater and be exposed to and study different genres of each.

- Social & Personal Responsibility (for older teens) - Especially designed for older teenagers approaching the end of high school. This course will address topics such as: preparing for college, the importance of social responsibility, setting personal life goals, identifying marketable skills, and strongly encouraging the concept of "wholeness" within the individual.
- World Cultures & Volun-tourism - This course highlights the importance of global competence of our youth. We aim to encourage youth to become globally literate and to be globally competent. Students will investigate their world, including their



The Common Ground Foundation's "BE Empowered" program provides life, career and educational mentoring as a means for youth participants to achieve understanding, confidence and self-respect. Our program support is focused on "finding the leader within" each youth and developing their own unique gifts. Various outlets of creative expression, learning business and life- skills are pinnacle while enabling youth to develop an overall mind/body "holistic" well-being.

immediate environment and beyond. Students will learn about communicating and collaborating with diverse audiences, and be exposed to in-depth content about global issues as well as countries, cultures, and language.

- Junior Achievement/ Work Readiness- The students will learn a detailed snapshot into the world of business, and will develop a vast understanding

of business concepts, principles, and applicable knowledge which will help them both personally and professionally. The goal is to assist in empowering and preparing youth to achieve their employment potential by providing comprehensive education and employment support services to youth members. *Entrepreneurship, Work Readiness, and Financial Literacy are the key concepts presented in this session.

- Fieldtrip Fridays – During the summer our Program Staff provide youth with fieldtrip opportunities every week (on Fridays). During the Fall/Winter session fieldtrips are held on one Saturday monthly. Our aim is to expose them to different environments and activities to both inspire and educate them to

aim higher and expand their knowledge base of the world outside of their community.

- Community Service & Environmental Consciousness - This course includes two parts: A) Conservation/"Going Green" and B) Current Affairs and Citizenship. Students will learn what role serving in the community has in leadership building, as well as learning about the importance of civic participation by empowering youth to take action on issues of both local and global relevance. –This

will be incorporated into future program sessions.

- Technology - The students will learn different methods of technology, and the importance of knowing what impact their use of technological resources will have on their future. Our goal is also to partner with other existing organizations that promote educational projects centered on youth media and music education, thus exposing them to a variety of careers fusing the technology and entertainment fields. Once we receive additional funding for our audiovisual room and technology lab, this will be immediately phased into our future sessions.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Population: Chicago Students including those from the CPS, partner organizations that we work with, as well as youth who participate in our summer

One goal for our foundation is to host a Youth Leadership Conference focused on interacting with and gaining inspiration from celebrities and leaders in our community. The objective is to provide educational information that will aid our students in having the knowledge and support they need to achieve their dreams. The messages conveyed through the speakers

and fall programs at the Lighthouse Youth Center.

of our conference will foster our holistic leadership and education mission...reaching beyond the boundaries of what is taught in the classroom.

SEMINARS ARE FOCUSED ON THREE KEY AREAS INCLUDING:

Workshops will include but are not limited to: Leadership/Life Skills, Financial literacy, Healthy living, Spirituality, Self-Esteem and Character, Career planning, Owning your own business, etc.

- Healthy Living:
 - Nutrition
 - Fitness
 - Spirituality
- Education:
 - College / Career Planning
 - Technology
 - Financial Management
- Leadership:
 - Character Development
 - Business/ Entrepreneurship
 - Life Planning & Goal Setting





READERS ARE LEADERS PROGRAM

The “Readers ARE Leaders” program is specifically focused on promoting literacy and reading as a primary tenet in every young person’s life. In an effort to encourage and inspire youth to read, the Common Ground Foundation has launched The Corner, a national online book club. This interactive platform provides youth across the country

THE CORNER Highlights:

- THE CORNER has been the Common Ground Foundation’s most successful program.
- Each month, THE CORNER team chose a book of the month that conveyed messages of tolerance, compassion and non-violent expressions of achieving social justice. Through lively discussions about the world of books through “Let’s Talk,” THE CORNER book club blog, members were encouraged to discuss, debate, critique, and comment on the selected material.
- The Corner registered over 500 teens between the ages of 13-18 to be a member of the monthly book club.
- A monthly spotlight of celebrity interview focused on artists’ favorite books, why reading is important to them and issues that teens face today. These interviews were conducted by our teen resident journalist, Chloe, who interviewed figures like Nikki Giovanni, Musiq Soulchild, Lisa Leslie, and Anthony Hamilton.
- In addition, members had the opportunity to participate in a live online chat with the author of the monthly book selection, which further strengthened the relationship between young people and reading. Members were able to ask writers like National Book Award Winner Sherman Alexie, Garen Thomas, Kekla Magoon, and award-winning poet Marilyn Nelson about their books, the writing process, and writing tips.

with an opportunity to discuss current reading selections, and fosters the development of critical thinking skills. We strive to educate youth to deem reading as an essential tool in every leader’s life.

- Past book club selections included: KINDRED by Octavia Butler, THE ALCHEMIST by Paulo Coelho, WAR CHILD by Emmanuel Jal, YES WE CAN by Garen Thomas, STREET LOVE by Walter Dean Myers and THE ABSOLUTLEY TRUE DIARY OF A PART-TIME INDIAN by Sherman Alexie.
- Introduced e-books for students who couldn’t obtain a physical book. Major publishers provided the in-kind donation.
- THE CORNER book club developed relationships with parents, educators, librarians and youth providers through a dedicated email list where ideas and suggestions were submitted and discussed in regards to literacy. The e-blast also contained activities that adults could use to encourage reading and writing engagement.
- Through exposure and participation in educational endeavors, The Common Ground Foundation created a positive atmosphere for learning and understanding and fulfills objectives of increased learning outcomes in reading and writing.
- 2009 efforts were sponsored by Best Buy @15 grant.

Annual Leadership Awards Gala

The goal of this evening will be to raise money for the Common Ground Foundation, while highlighting the achievements of those that we believe exemplify excellence and leadership in their respective fields. This event will be black tie, and it will also include video/photo highlights of our CGF summer and fall programs at the Lighthouse Youth Center to engage additional support and awareness to further our CGF programs. The culture of the event will be one of excellence, class, and appreciation to those that personify one of the pillars that our organization's mission stands upon...Leadership.

When: Spring 2011

Location: Downtown Chicago, IL

Invited Honorees Include:

Maya Angelou, Ludacris, Harry Belafonte, and other special guests.

Invited Musical Guest: Jazz Artist Terrance Blanchard

Host: Common

Awards Include:

Excellence & Leadership in Character

Excellence in Service

Entrepreneurial Excellence

Common & Friends' Present: 1st Annual Youth Anti-Violence Concert

The Common Ground Foundation has an opportunity to partner with the Illinois Sports Facilities Authority as the lead hosts of a benefit concert at U.S. Cellular Field in July 2011.

The event will be an extension of the Annual Common & Friends concert series that has taken place over the past few years in both Chicago and Los Angeles with A-list artist roster including: Kanye West, Queen Latifah, Nas, Will.i.am, Pharrell Williams, The Roots, Talib Kweli, Mos Def, Lupe Fiasco, and many more

A few goals of the event will be to:

- Raise awareness on the issue of Gun Violence and Chicago's youth.
- Promote a message of Leadership, Excellence and Peace as an alternative to violent behaviors.
- Promote unity in support for this important cause across business, political, civic, philanthropic, entertainment, and athletic communities.
- Raise money for our Foundation to support programs that address these issues and to further our message of education and leadership.

Date: July 23rd, 2011

Venue: U.S. Cellular Field



HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can choose one of the following options to help make a difference:

MAKE A DONATION BY CHECK OR CREDIT CARD:
Your support is deeply appreciated by the Common Ground Foundation, youth and community. We welcome one time donations as well as recurring gifts.

Please mail donation checks to (payable to Common Ground Foundation):

Common Ground Foundation
5482 Wilshire Blvd. Suite #1556
Los Angeles, CA 90036

HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS:
We appreciate your gift in honor of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one. To make a memorial or honorary gift by check, credit card or stock, inform us of the name of the person you are honoring or memorializing and be sure to include the individual's name and address (for honorary gifts) or the family's contact name and address (for memorials). We will



notify the individual or family of your thoughtfulness without revealing the amount.

WORKPLACE GIVING:
Many companies encourage their employees to make charitable contributions by offering workplace giving programs through payroll deductions. Ask your employer whether your company participates in matching contributions. Through this program, you may be able to designate a specified amount of each paycheck to support The Common Ground Foundation.

To learn more about workplace giving, please call (773) 357.6390 or send an email to info@commongroundfoundation.org.

VOLUNTEER:
Make a valuable investment in your community by contributing your time and energy as a volunteer with the Common Ground Foundation programs. As a volunteer you will:

- Enrich lives of youth in your local community
- Offer needed skills and talents
- Meet like-minded people
- Increase self-confidence in yourself and others
- Have fun while making a difference

For volunteer opportunities in your community please call (773) 295-1915 ext.2 or send an email to info@commongroundfoundation.org. The Common Ground Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) organization. All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

SELECT GIFT FREQUENCY

If you select a recurring gift, the payment will repeat on an on-going basis. You may cancel at any time.

☐ I would like to make a one-time gift for the following amount: \$_____

☐ I would like to make a recurring gift.

Gift Amount* \$_____ Payment Frequency _____

NOTE: This transaction will count as the first payment toward your total gift amount.

DONOR INFORMATION

- Title _____
- First Name _____
- Middle Initial _____
- Last Name _____
- Address Line 1 _____
- Address Line 2 _____
- City _____
- State _____
- ZIP/Postal Code _____
- Country _____
- Phone _____
- Email _____
 - o Do not email
 - o Do not direct mail

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

- Cardholder's Name _____
- Credit Card Number _____
- CVV Number _____
- Credit Card Type _____
 - o VISA
 - o AMX
 - o MC
- Credit Card Expiration _____

BILLING ADDRESS

Same as Donor Information? If not please fill out the information below:

- Address Line 1 _____
- Address Line 2 _____
- City _____
- State _____
- ZIP/Postal Code _____
- Country _____
- Phone _____

LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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NBA All Star & Philanthropist

DR. CORNEL WEST,
Author, Professor, Public Intellectual

DAVE WIRTSCHAFTER,
President of William Morris Agency

SENIOR LEVEL SPONSORSHIP: \$100,000

- Co-branded as Partner of Lighthouse Youth Center Healthy Cooking Program
- Co-branded as Partner of Lighthouse Youth Center Technology/Youth Media Program
- Corporate logo on CGF/ Lighthouse Youth Center homepage website with hyperlink to your corporate website
- Classroom named after your company or organization
- Special invitation to CGF and Lighthouse Youth Center events
- Receive names/testimonials of students positively impacted by your sponsored programs
- Special recognition on all printed materials associated with the CGF/Lighthouse program newsletters and Youth Leadership Conference (letterhead, press releases, magazines, etc.)
- Honorable mention as CGF supporter on Corner Book Club website

JUNIOR LEVEL SPONSORSHIP: \$75,000

- Your Company will be branded as Sponsor of Lighthouse Youth Center Technology/Youth Media Program
- Corporate logo on CGF/ Lighthouse Youth Center homepage website with hyperlink to your corporate website
- Classroom named after your company or organization
- Special recognition on all printed materials associated with the CGF/Lighthouse program newsletters and Youth Leadership Conference (letterhead, press releases, magazines, etc.)
- Honorable mention as CGF supporter on Corner Book Club website
- Sponsor 10 youth to attend Leadership Conference and 10 youth to participate in Summer Leadership Program

COMMON GROUND FOUNDATION EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

SOPHMORE LEVEL SPONSORSHIP: \$50,000

- Corporate logo on CGF/ Lighthouse Youth Center homepage website with hyperlink to your corporate website
- Special recognition on all printed materials associated with the CGF/Lighthouse program newsletters and Youth Leadership Conference (letterhead, press releases, magazines, etc.)
- Honorable mention as CGF supporter on Corner Book Club website
- Sponsor 10 youth to attend Leadership Conference and 10 youth to participate in Summer Leadership Program
- Your company will be named as “Healthy Cooking Program

FRESHMAN LEVEL SPONSORSHIP: \$25,000

- Corporate logo on CGF homepage website
- Recognition on all printed materials associated with the CGF/Lighthouse program newsletters and Youth Leadership Conference (letterhead, press releases, magazines, etc.)
- Honorable mention as CGF supporter on Corner Book Club website
- Sponsor 10 youth to attend Leadership Conference and 5 youth to participate in Summer Leadership Program



LEADERSHIP GALA SPONSORSHIP

SPONSOR LEVEL A: \$50,000

- Host of the Gala and After Celebration listed as on invitation.
- Seating for two at Head table with Common, Parents, Maya Angelou
- Logo on all programs & P. R. outlets
- 30 Premier seating tickets to Gala, Pictures with Common and all award recipients
- After Celebration entrance for 40 people
- VIP table along with two complimentary bottles of sponsored vendor
- Listed as Proud Partner on Common Ground Foundation website
- 1st option for sponsorship for Common & Friends concert July 2011 (Exclusivity in this category)
- Listed as Proud Sponsor on Common Ground Foundation website
- 2nd option for sponsorship for Common & Friends concert July 2011 (Exclusivity in this category)

SPONSOR LEVEL B: \$25,000

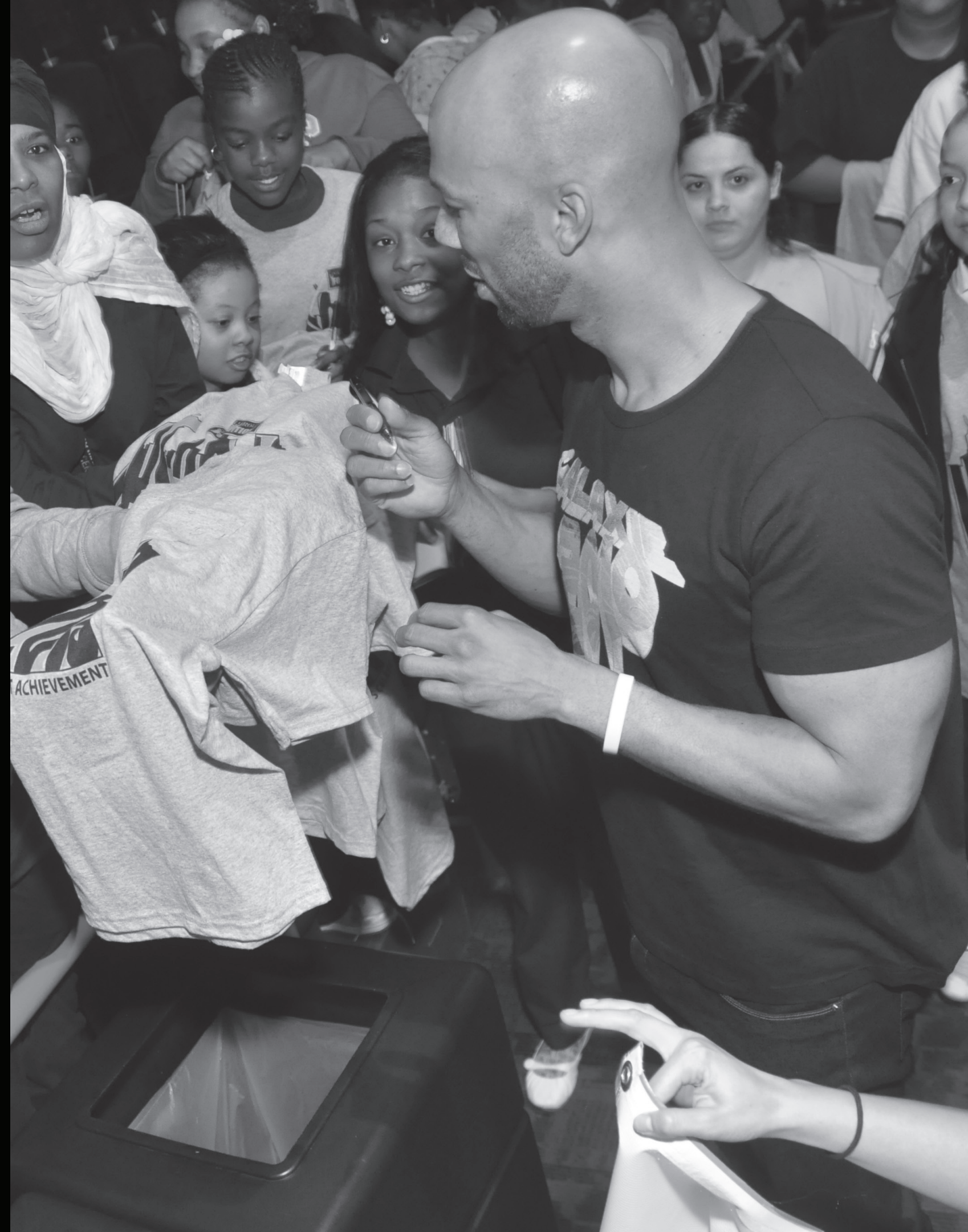
- Seating for two at table with one of the honorees
- Logo on all programs & P. R. outlets
- 20 Premier seating tickets to Gala
- Pictures with Common and all award recipients
- After Celebration entrance for 25 people
- VIP table along with two complimentary bottles of sponsored vendor
- Premier Table seating
- 6 tickets to Gala
- Pictures with Common and award recipients
- After Celebration entrance for 10 people
- VIP table along with one complimentary bottle of sponsored vendor

SPONSOR LEVEL C: \$10,000

- Premier Table seating
- Logo on all programs & P. R. outlets
- 10 tickets to Gala
- Pictures with Common and all award recipients
- After Celebration entrance for 15 people
- VIP table along with one complimentary bottle of sponsored vendor

SPONSOR LEVEL D: \$5,000

- Premier Table seating
- 6 tickets to Gala
- Pictures with Common and award recipients
- After Celebration entrance for 10 people
- VIP table along with one complimentary bottle of sponsored vendor



COMMON AND FRIENDS ANTI-VIOLENCE CONCERT SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

TITLE SPONSORSHIP: \$150,000

- Presented by recognition on all printed materials associated with the event (letterhead, press releases, magazines, etc.)
- Prominent placement of company logo on background signage at Red Carpet
- Verbal recognition as Title Sponsor throughout the event and media interviews
- Right to display corporate banner at entrance of VIP reception, and Company Recognition on electronic jumbotron throughout the duration of the concert
- Full-page premium add in the Common Ground Foundation event program
- Corporate representative to speak at VIP reception about the partnership and importance of the event
- Corporate logo on CGF website homepage with hyperlink to your company's website
- 50 concert tickets total including: 2 exclusive VIP balcony suites for 20 guests during the show, 10 premium tickets where guests view show from exclusive VIP area, and 20 general public concert access
- 20 VIP tickets to After-party

PRESENTING SPONSORSHIP: \$100,000

- Named Official Event Partner of the Common Ground Foundation
- Prominent placement of company logo on background signage at Red Carpet
- Company Recognition on electronic jumbotron throughout the duration of the concert and at VIP reception
- Full page color ad including your company logo on the inside front cover of the souvenir journal
- Corporation name on all printed materials associated with the event (letterhead, press releases, magazines, etc.)
- Corporate logo on CGF website homepage with hyperlink to your company's website
- 30 concert tickets total including: 1 exclusive VIP balcony suite for 10 guests during the show, 10 premium tickets where guests view show from exclusive VIP area 10 general public concert access
- 15 VIP tickets to After-party

PLATINUM SPONSORSHIP: \$75,000

- Company Recognition on electronic jumbotron at the concert and at VIP reception
- Full- page color ad including your company logo on the inside front cover of the souvenir journal
- Corporation name on all printed materials associated with the event (letterhead, press releases, magazines, etc.)
- Corporate logo on CGF website homepage with hyperlink to your company's website
- 20 concert tickets total including: 10 premium tickets where guests view show from exclusive VIP area, 10 general public concert access
- 10 VIP tickets to After-party

GOLD SPONSORSHIP: \$50,000

- Company Recognition on electronic jumbotron at the concert and at VIP reception
- Full- page color ad including your company logo on the inside back cover of the souvenir journal
- Corporate logo on CGF website homepage with hyperlink to your company's website
- 15 concert tickets total including: 5 premium tickets where guests view show from exclusive VIP area, 10 general public concert access
- 10 General Admission tickets to After-party

SILVER SPONSORSHIP: \$25,000

- Half- page color ad including your company logo on the souvenir journal
- Corporate mention as CGF supporter and logo on CGF website homepage
- 10 concert tickets total including: 5 premium tickets where guests view show from exclusive VIP area, 5 general public concert access
- 5 General Admission tickets to After-party

BRONZE SPONSORSHIP: \$10,000

- Half- page black & white ad including your company logo on the souvenir journal
- Corporate mention as CGF supporter and logo on CGF website homepage
- 5 concert tickets total including: 2 premium tickets where guests view show from exclusive VIP area, 3 general public concert access
- 5 General Admission tickets to After-party

VISION STATEMENT

Hip-Hop artist, Actor, and Children's author Lonnie Rashid Lynn, known as "Common," is the visionary behind the Common Ground Foundation. Our premise is to identify and develop tomorrow's leaders through programs that promote holistic leadership and education. We are committed to empowering youth to achieve greatness while developing leadership and life skills needed to fulfill their dreams and make an impact on their world.

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COMMON GROUND
FOUNDATION