



1 AUGUST 2019

Dear Potential Sponsor,

Imagine a young man from Syracuse presenting to professionals from all over the country at the Arbor Day Foundation's Partners in Community Forestry Conference hosted in Irvine, California. Imagine the same young man being featured as the kick-off success story by Mayor Walsh at the Syracuse's State of the City Address. This young man is Taveon (Tay) Stenson. People stand in line after his presentations to learn more about the leadership roles that youth and young adults are playing in urban forestry -- from watering and pruning young trees to leading community meetings for the City's master planning.

After going through our youth, young adult, and advanced young adult programs, Tay now leads a crew of young adults down the same path he took with the Onondaga Earth Corps (OEC). In his words, "Increasing the city's canopy is our nine to five. Building lifetime relationships with people in the community is our mission. OEC has opened my eyes to seeing a vision beyond the trees and a glimpse into the minds and hearts of the people who keep our communities afloat." Tay is a shining example of what is possible for youth through OEC.

With the support of our dedicated staff, youth in our program have a platform to find their voice, learn new skills, engage with the community and be gainfully employed. In the last year, we planted over 2000 trees, maintained over 20 green spaces, educated hundreds of community members, but most importantly we have served over 40 youth like Tay, each on their own journey.

In this packet, we invite you, your organization, and your colleagues to support OEC in fulfilling its mission to empower youth. Please consider adding your name, company or organization to the list of many donors committed to the mission of empowering youth and building community:

- Sponsor and/or attend our fall fundraiser, "Earth Corps Encore 2019" on November 9th, 2019 (Contact Yvonne Chu at ychu@onondagaeearthcorps.org for more details)
- Advertise in our Event Program Guide (see enclosed program from 2018 complete with crew testimonials)
- Donate to our fund-a-truck campaign
- Tell us how you would like to contribute

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Gregory Michel

Executive Director of Onondaga Earth Corps

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Stephen Harris, Maurice Harris, Meqdad Ali, Yvonne Chu, Taveon Stenson, Eli MacDonald, Shadrach McKinney, and Gregory Michel at the 2019 Tree City Award Ceremony in Albany, NY.