

# The Rockwood Center

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# NEWSLETTER



The Rockwood Center, in 2023, offered an array of exciting and diverse activities for people of all ages, such as art classes for both kids and adults, music and guitar lessons, a Back-to-School Backpack drive, and sewing classes, among others. Through collaborations with various organizations, we aimed to provide opportunities for people to explore their artistic side, express themselves through music, and learn in a nurturing environment that supports growth. We are grateful to our friends and neighbors who worked alongside us.

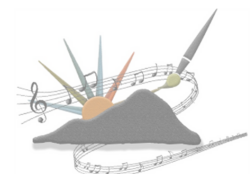


Looking ahead, we have even more exciting projects in store. With additional funds from the OHA Adolescent & School Health program, we will continue to work with the Rockwood Center Summer Art classes for kids. We are also starting a new project with a vaccine clinic at the Rockwood Center, thanks to the OHA CDP grant we were approved for.

Stay updated with our latest developments by following us on Facebook and Instagram or visiting our website, [www.therockwoodcenter.com](http://www.therockwoodcenter.com), for more information!

*Avi de Jesus*

Director



# Mark your Calender

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## *ACTIVITIES FOR 2024*

### OPEN SEWING STUDIO

1ST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

12 PM-2 PM

**\*REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

### SEWING WORKSHOP FOR BEGINNERS

ALL ARE ALREADY FILLED!

### PEQUEÑO NEGOCIOS

“SMALL BUSINESS EVENT”

APRIL 27TH 2024

### OPEN HOUSE FUNDRAISING

EARLY MAY (7TH OR 8TH)

**\*RSVP REQUIRED**

### KIDS ACRYLIC T-SHIRT PAINTING

COMING IN JUNE 2024

STAY TUNED FOR THE DATE AND TIME.

**\*REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

### BACK TO SCHOOL BACKPACK DRIVE

AUGUST 31, 2024

**\*REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

### KIDS FALL MUSIC CLASSES

TBD LATE SEPTEMBER

**\*REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Reach out for more information:



(503)661-8632    Txt (971)808-1030



programs@therockwoodcenter.com

*Stay Tuned:*





# 2024 Back to School Backpack Drive

Last year, we organized a backpack drive and distributed 300 backpacks filled with school supplies to children in the Gresham, Centennial, Reynolds, and Clackamas school districts. We're incredibly grateful to all of our supporters, volunteers, and friends who helped make it possible. We'd also like to extend our thanks to the following organizations and groups for their unwavering support: Craft Warehouse, Riverview Bank, SnowCap, Centennial Key Club, Centro De Milagros Church, Pleasant Home United Methodist Church, Gresham United Methodist Church, and Te-Tey Face Painting.

For our 2024 Backpack drive, we're aiming to help out 500 children. We welcome anyone interested in becoming a partner or volunteer to join us. Let's work together to make a difference in our community.



# Kids Art & Music Classes

We have been pursuing our mission of working with the community by providing free art and music classes for kids during summer and after school. Last year, we received a grant from the OHA Adolescent & School Health program, which helped us bring talented pianist Laura Mass, guitarist Evyn Witton, and high school students on board to participate in the kids' summer music camps. Furthermore, Evyn continued with our after-school music program, teaching Ukulele and guitar classes to children aged between 9 and 13 years old in a six-week course, in which we had 15 participants.



This year, we have the wonderful opportunity to continue working with the OHA Adolescent & School Health program grant, and we are excited to launch our kids' Art classes for spring and summer with our local artists and high school students!

To stay up-to-date with our upcoming events, please visit our website.



# Adult Art & Music Classes

We are excited to announce that we launched a Music and Art class for adults last year based on the community's interest. Our art classes were taught by the talented Rosamaria Rosales, who covered a variety of art techniques such as charcoal, watercolors, and collage. The response from the community was overwhelming as the classes were informative and therapeutic for participants after a long day of work.

We are proud to report that our recent introduction of a range of Adult classes has been a great success.

Among the most popular courses was the six-week guitar lessons program taught by Evyn Witton. Students gained invaluable knowledge about music theory and received hands-on training to improve their guitar-playing skills.

Additionally, our sewing art studio welcomed an exceptional instructor who led a three-week course on the art of hexagon hand stitching. This workshop was a hit among participants as they learned a new technique they had never encountered before.

We are thrilled to continue offering Adult classes this year and hope to welcome even more participants.



# Our Continued Partners & Friends

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## Centro De Milagros

### Harvest Time Ministries

Centro De Milagros Church has been with us for 17 years; Pastor Rolando Valdez and his congregation have helped the Rockwood Center tremendously.



Head Start has been at the Rockwood Center 6yrs; they have been working hard with kids and families.



**DOULAS**LATINAS

*transformando vidas*

This organization has started holding vaccine clinics and handing out food boxes at the Rockwood Center.



OPEN HEARTS. OPEN HANDS

Snow Cap is located on the backside of the Rockwood building. They have helped the RC by picking up the garbage and mowing the front lawn of the RC. Snow Cap's Food Pantry is OPEN and Ready to Serve!

## Jorge Mendez

Jorge has become a long-time friend of the Rockwood Center. Jorge has been assisting in maintaining the landscape and the roof and gutters of the Rockwood building.

## Donors

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There is much work ahead. Your donations have made it possible for us to offer a variety of programs. We thank you for your continued support and desire to see us succeed. We are updating our donor policies and requesting donors indicate if they want to be publicly recognized or remain anonymous. Because of this new policy, we are not publicly recognizing any 2023 supporters.



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# Friends of the Rockwood Center

The Rockwood Center is a place where a number of things happen to enhance the life of the community. We always seek volunteers who want to serve the community through our programs, assist around the building, or provide financial support.

Please get in touch with us for more information about how you can share.



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## The Rockwood Center Venues

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Our event space is ideal for a variety of occasions, including conferences, retreats, weddings, private parties, and more!

Contact us today to book your next event!





My name is Adam Jenkins, and as of January 1st, 2024, I became the president of Gresham United Methodist Ministries, the non-profit that owns and operates The Rockwood Center. I first want to introduce myself and then express deep appreciation for the work of Steve Lewis, my predecessor as board president and a fellow founder of GUMM.

I am somewhat new to the Rockwood Community, having come to the area in 2016 when I was hired as an assistant minister at Gresham United Methodist Church. Steve Lewis and I worked closely together in the early days when the Rockwood United Methodist Church made the hard decision to close its doors as a worshipping community and allowed for its former space to become a new vision for the local community to come together in a new way.

The Rockwood Center was envisioned to be a place where a positive impact could be made in the Rockwood area through partnering with our community, providing opportunities to create art, express music, and fostering learning environments while engaging the ever-changing needs of our neighbors. A place where Spirituality, the Arts, Education, Opportunity, Cultures, and Community Come Together. This is the mission that the board and I have worked hard to bring into reality over the years despite a whirlwind of global shifts and local changes. I am proud to say that despite this tremendous adversity, we are still here!

I bring a community and social work background to my focus on continuing this mission. After leaving the assistant minister position at Gresham United Methodist Church in 2018, I moved to Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, where I earn my living working for East Multnomah County, coordinating for the Second Home Team. This program seeks to connect youth in need of stable housing to hosts in their school district communities. My experience has taught me the value & power of strategic partnership and relationship-building in performing this crucial resiliency-building and positive impact-making work. It has also taught me that this work can only start with first taking time to listen and learn from the lived experiences of one another. So please do not hesitate to reach out for a conversation about the work of GUMM/The Rockwood Center. I enjoy hearing your visions, aspirations, energies, and ideas for what is possible together in the future.

Additionally, I would be remiss if I didn't conclude with a deeply felt Thank You and Good Work expressed to my predecessor, Steve Lewis. Steve has worked tirelessly on this project, pulling the right people together and finding the funding to make our dream possible. I would also like to thank my fellow board members who have served over these past 6+ years who have dedicated their wisdom and energies to supporting a startup project even when it felt like the world as we knew it ground to a halt and restarted all over again leaving assumptions we had made about the way things ought to work in the past. The times were uncertain, but we navigated those challenging waters, and because of you, we are still here today.

So let us continue in this good work together, board members and community members alike, to continue to live the dream, to continue to show up and positively impact one another, and to create art, express music, and foster learning. We will continue to engage the ever-changing needs of our community if we commit to working together. And so, I look forward to being your new president and working together soon.

*Adam Jenkins*

President