ROCKY
ROCKY MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.
Improving lives, strengthening communities.

2023 Impact Report

Rocky Mountain Development Council, Inc.

Improving Lives and Strengthening Communities
Serving Lewis & Clark, Broadwater, and Jefferson Counties

A Letter from Executive Director Lori Ladas...

2023 marked Rocky's fifty-eighth year serving Lewis & Clark, Broadwater, and Jefferson counties. Thank you to our donors, advocates, community partners, event attendees, employees, and clients.

This report highlights Rocky's 2023 programs and services, fiscal year 2023 financials, and stories from volunteers and clients. Please take a moment to read this report.

But first, a few of Rocky's accomplishments!

On August 14, 2023, a fire displaced nearly **30** low-income residents from the historic Iron Front Hotel in Helena. Rocky used **$30,000** of Community Block Service Grant Covid funds to secure hotel rooms

for the displaced renters, partnering with the Red Cross and United Way of the Lewis & Clark Area. **This demonstrates the power of community action.**

The Emergency Solutions Grant supported rapid rehousing, homelessness prevention, and street outreach efforts. Despite high local rents, **30** people secured permanent housing. Over **300** received case management and community service referrals. Rocky's housing units are full, with a waitlist of **507**. Affordable housing remains a critical need, and several Rocky programs assist those seeking shelter.

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Head Start employees helped 14 families find temporary housing, and the Homebuyer Education Program enabled **55** families to purchase their first home. Additionally, over **4,000** families received energy relief from the Energy Services Program.

The RSVP – Retired & Senior Volunteer Program – launched the Go-Getters to assist seniors with transportation for medical appointments and grocery shopping. This initiative aims to support seniors in maintaining independence and improving their well-being.

The stories and statistics ahead showcase Rocky and its vital programs. **Thank you for partnering with us - we look forward to your continued support in the future.**

Rocky Mountain Development Council, Inc. (Rocky):

Serving Lewis & Clark, Broadwater, & Jefferson Counties

Who We Are

Rocky is a Community Action Agency dedicated to improving quality of life and promoting self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

What We Do

Our organization is comprised of 10 programs addressing four broad categories of community needs: Senior Services, Childcare and Early Childhood Education, Energy Services, and Housing Services.

Programs...

Improving Lives, Strengthening Communities

Senior Nutrition & Transportation
Rocky's Senior Nutrition and Transportation program offers congregate dining, Meals on Wheels, and free transportation to older adults aged 55 and over to and from the Rocky Neighborhood Center.

Rocky Mountain Preschool Center (RMPC)
RMPC provides quality childcare for infants to children aged five. RMPC follows a curriculum based on the children's interests, abilities and needs.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
ESG assists individuals and families to quickly regain stability in housing after becoming unhoused in the event of a life crisis.

Rocky's Agency on Aging
Rocky's Agency on Aging is a free one-stop shop, connecting seniors and persons with disabilities to vital information and services.

Affordable Housing
Rocky's affordable housing units offer safe and healthy housing in Lewis & Clark, Broadwater, and Jefferson Counties.

Rocky Head Start
Rocky Head Start is a comprehensive early childhood development program that provides education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low-income children and their families.

Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)
FGP offers men and women, 55 years and older, the opportunity to mentor and assist children by sharing expertise, knowledge, and care on a volunteer basis.

Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
RSVP matches retired men and women, 55 years and older, with volunteer opportunities in their communities based on their personal preferences and talents.

Senior Companion Program (SCP)
SCP brings together volunteers age 55 and over with adults in their community who have difficulty with the tasks of day-to-day living.

Energy Services
Rocky's Energy Services program provides assistance with weatherizing homes, and connects individuals with the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), as well as Energy Share.

2023 Rocky Board of Directors

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50 Years of Rocky: Board Member Jerry Loendorf

Let's start by looking back! How did you find your way onto Rocky's board?
Rocky actually found me! A friend who was employed there told me about the vacancy and that they needed a lawyer on the Board. I didn't know what Rocky was at the time, but having served on several nonprofit boards, I understood the importance of helping others so I decided to join. I'll always remember my first board meeting as we selected a new Executive Director, Gene Leuwer, who held the position for the next 35 years.

50 years is impressive! What is it about Rocky that made you want to stick around?
The people and the mission! Rocky has always been about helping people and has consistently found good individuals to serve on the board and work at the organization. I feel fortunate to have joined the board early in my life. There has been no better board I've served on than Rocky's.

Today, Rocky is a large, complex organization with 137 employees and 10 different programs. What areas have you seen the most change in during your 50 years on Rocky's board?
Rocky has grown significantly both internally and externally. Internally, we now have accountants for government reporting, an HR department, a personnel policy, and a retirement fund. Externally, we've expanded from managing housing developments to developing them, a complex and challenging task, particularly in financing.

As you look into the future, what is your hope for Rocky as an organization going forward?
Continued growth - Rocky's programs are crucial for our communities. Ultimately, I would like to see no poverty in our communities, but know that is not realistic. So, my hope is for Rocky's programs to continue to grow, and help as many people as possible who are in difficult situations.

Mission Accomplished

...Rocky Success Stories

An Invaluable Experience with Rocky Mountain Preschool...

"I am thrilled to share my amazing experience with Rocky Mountain Preschool! With three children who have all attended, I can confidently say it's been integral to their early development, setting them up for success. From the warm welcome to the skilled educators, Rocky exceeded our expectations. Their innovative approach to education, focusing on hands-on activities and social-emotional development, has been outstanding. Thank you, Rocky teachers, for helping shape my children into the amazing individuals they are today! Forever grateful for the positive impact you've had on our family." - Blair

A Rocky Go-Getter...

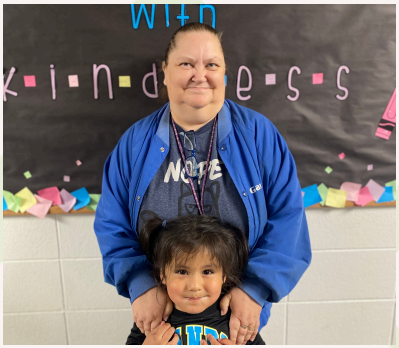
"About 7 years ago I had a stroke in one of my eyes, about a year later a stroke in the other eye. I decided to retire, and I gave up driving. Needless to say l had to depend on family and friends for rides to my medical appointments. A friend told me about the Go-Getters program and I was much relieved to find that there was support through the Rocky RSVP program for assistance with rides. I shared the information about the program with my friends who are low-vision and blind. We were all very happy with the services offered and how easy it is to use them." - Pat

Mission Accomplished

...Rocky Success Stories

More than just a Meal...

"We have been receiving Meals on Wheels for three years now. We are sight and hearing disabled and have trouble cooking at home. Knowing that food will be delivered to our home is such a blessing. We don't have to plan for meals or transportation, saving us from a lot of stress and planning each day. Knowing that our driver will be coming each morning keeps us moving around the home and making sure our house is clean. We appreciate Meals on Wheels so much that we even recommend it to our friends in our Christmas Cards." - Ruth & Fred



Two generations with Head Start...

"My family has been involved with Head Start for 34 years! My three daughters and one of my grandchildren went through the program and I have one grandson enrolled right now. The program helps the kids so much socially and gives them a head start with the skills they use in kindergarten. The program offers such peace of mind for low-income families to know that there is a safe place where they can drop off their children. I also really enjoy how much Rocky's Head Start program included parents and grandparents in their childcare process. It helps us learn from one another about different ways to parent." - Rhonda

Driven by Volunteers...

Rocky is **DRIVEN** by our incredible volunteers, who make it possible for us to support the most vulnerable members of our community.

In 2023, over **167** volunteers contributed approximately **95,000** hours of service! We are endlessly grateful for their selflessness and dedication.

Meet Rocky Volunteers
Helen and Kathe

"I became familiar with the benefits of volunteering through my mother, who volunteered at her local Senior Center in Belt, MT. I am a huge advocate for Meals on Wheels and for those who are homebound. I believe food insecurity is a major issue for seniors due to their lack of desire or inability to cook for themselves. Coming from an Italian family, food was a major part of our lives, so being able to help others share in the joy of food is important and rewarding to me." - Helen

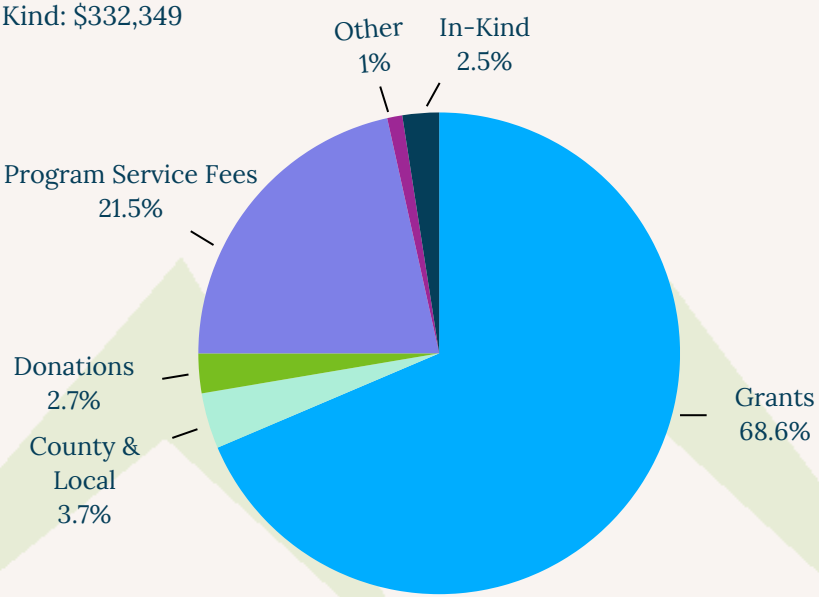
"What I really like about volunteering at Rocky is that, without any pressure, you can find different ways to get involved with the clientele that go beyond the original scope. I started out delivering Meals on Wheels, which grew into helping with the Personal Pantry every three months. Now, I am teaching a Hand Chime Class for the Seniors at the Neighborhood Center. All of these activities mean a lot to me because they allow me to connect with my community and make people feel important and cared for." - Kathe

Financials...

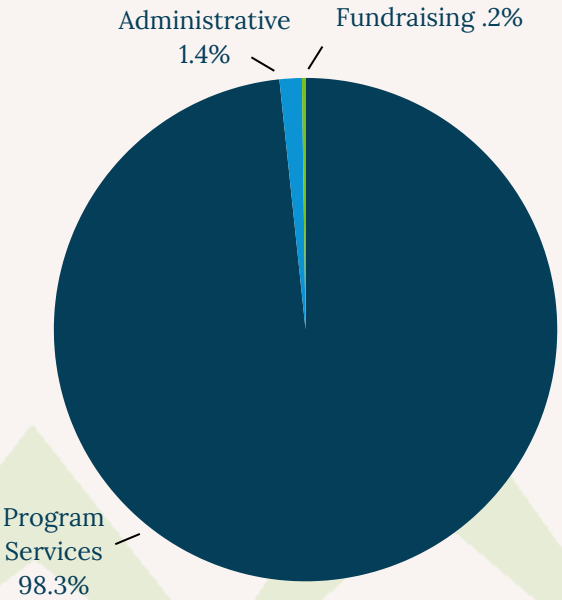
Audited Financials for Fiscal Year 2023

Visit www.rmdc.net for full reports

Revenue:
Grants: $9,293,514
County & Local: $506,907
Donations: $359,853
Program Service Fees: $2,918,251
Other: $137,165
In-Kind: $332,349



Expenses:
Program Services: $14,395,035
Administrative: $209,441
Fundraising: $33,800



Community Impact...

177 children aged 3-5 received free early childhood education from Rocky Head Start

56 children received care, education, and meals in RMPC's four age-appropriate classrooms

79 RSVP volunteers served seven nonprofit agencies in the Tri-County area, including 8,247 hours of volunteer service

197 individuals received housing stability case management

82,010 meals were delivered to 813 clients through Rocky's Meals on Wheels Program

2,935 individuals assisted by the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

965 seniors received 18,234 meals in Senior Centers throughout Lewis & Clark, Broadwater, and Jefferson Counties

1,710 seniors received mediations or customer advocacy interventions

382 safe affordable housing units operated in Lewis & Clark, Broadwater, and Jefferson Counties

Community Timeline...

Making an impact in our communities since 1965

1965
Rocky is established in Helena under the name RMDC

1966
Head Start begins operations

1968
Helena Senior Center and Foster Grandparent Program begin

1972
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) Begins

1979
Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is funded and becomes part of the Community Services Administration

1982
Rocky begins operating Energy Share

1992
Rocky begins operating at the Neighborhood Center with its Head Start Program

1996
Rocky receives Certified Housing Development Organization Status (CHDO) allowing Rocky to pursue housing development efforts

1998
State approves Rocky's Agency on Aging to provide case management for Home & Community Based Services

2004
Completion of the first High School House, in collaboration with School District #1

2013
Completion of the River Rock Housing complex for Seniors 62 and over in North Helena

2021
Completion of Red Alder Residences in Helena, providing 85 units of workforce and low income affordable housing

The Importance of Private Support...

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Help ensure Rocky continues writing history in **our communities.**

Your generosity helps us reach as many individuals as possible who need our services. Please consider giving to Rocky to help us improve the communities we share and love, making them better places for us all.

Visit www.rmdc.net to give