



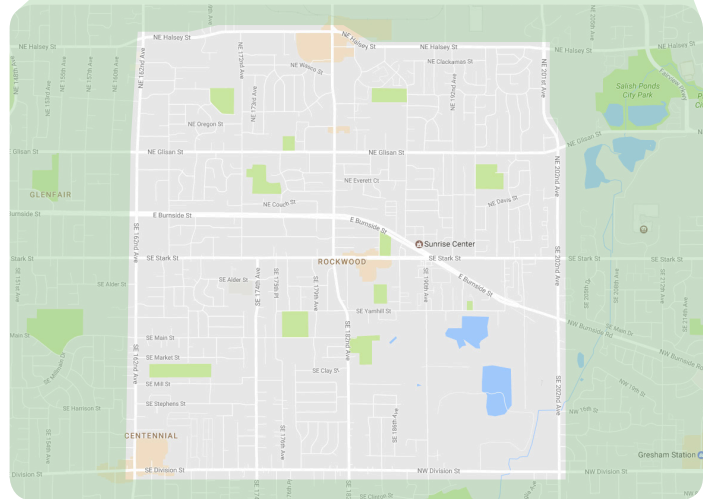
# 2016 Annual Report

Learn. Earn. Belong.

## NEED

# To understand what we do, you need to meet our neighbors.

Rockwood is Oregon's poorest community. It is also its sickest, most violent, most diverse and the least churched community. All of its schools have a greater than 90% participation in free- or reduced-lunch, and score in the bottom quintile of schools statewide. Our neighbors have the highest incidence of asthma, low birthrate babies, high body mass index, and other indicators of poor health. Gangs, human sex trafficking, and narcotics trafficking are concentrated here.



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At this time, the trends are still pointing to further declines in income, educational attainment and health. Between 2000 and 2012 the number of Rockwood's 33,000 residents living in poverty grew by 61%. And the recent appearance of mass evictions in Rockwood has meant the rise of families experiencing homelessness—many for the first time.

Working to create wealth in Rockwood is one of the biggest challenges that Oregonians face. Broad system-wide changes are needed.

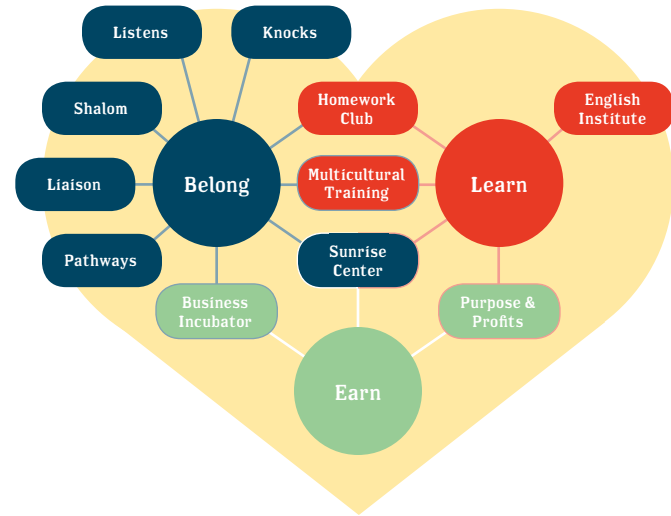
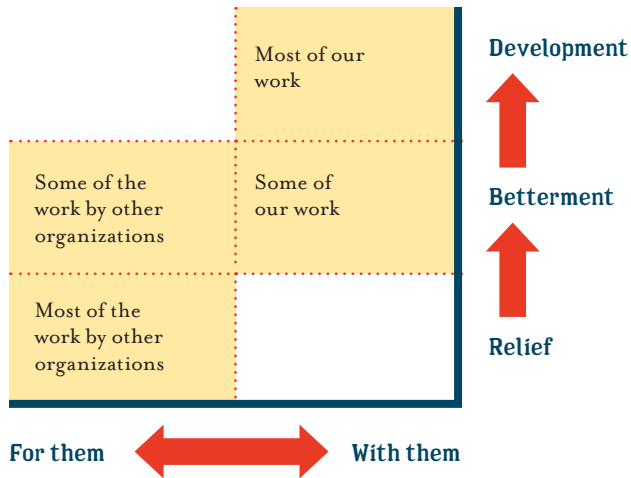
Our neighbors speak over 88 languages at home, and aspire to build lives that flourish. There are neighbors here who want to help, and who need outside resources to be successful.

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That's why the Rockwood CDC seeks donations, volunteers, new initiatives, and collective impact. The job is too big for any one of us. But together, we can work to create a vibrant future. As you read this Annual Report, we invite you to see yourself as part of a very broad movement of hundreds of local neighbors, dozens of region-wide organizations, and even many national and international groups.



## HOW DO WE CHANGE A COMMUNITY?



Most of the efforts in Rockwood are Relief (addressing immediate needs). We do Development (addressing the root causes).

Our Development efforts are all about working with our neighbors to create a functioning community. We work to make Rockwood a place for everyone to learn, earn and belong.





Laura Bolanos-Ramirez grew up in Rockwood. She is the natural born daughter of Mexican immigrants. Laura has lived in the same apartment complex her entire life, surrounded by the same forty families. She is the only person who graduated from high school. She earned a college degree.

“It was so hard here”, Laura says. “I wanted to organize my people, but there was no support. I wanted to help kids get to college, but it was so unattainable. If there had been a Rockwood CDC when I was growing up, this whole community would have been prosperous”.

Laura is now a director of the Rockwood CDC.

## PROGRAMS

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# We help our neighbors belong by building up the community and reducing isolation



Our Rockwood Speaks! program offers facilitated conversations with underrepresented ethnic/racial minorities and legacy inter-generational poor neighbors. **1,500 people have participated in 81 sessions since 2014.**

The program also helps us identify and nurture emerging leaders from these groups. These leaders are then recruited onto local boards and into multi-cultural training. Over 100 adults are now acting as leaders in the community as a result.

The African-American population of Rockwood are the victims of serial forced displacement. Our civic engagement programs surfaced the leaders and organized them in to the African-American Advisory Council that is filling the leadership void.

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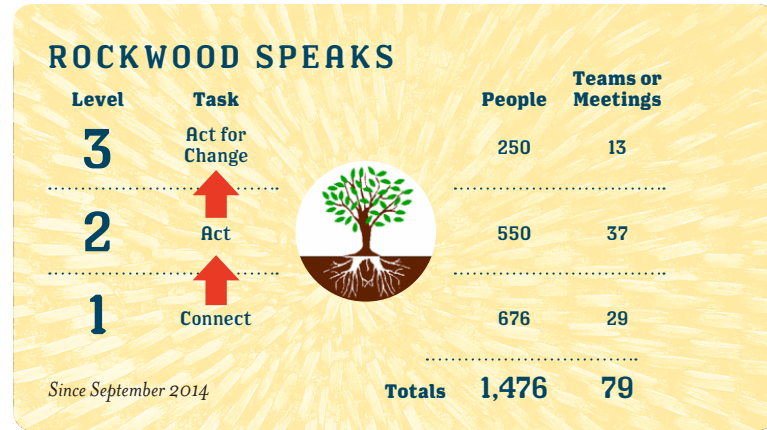
We employ neighbors who reach the Slavic, African-American, Middle Eastern and Latino populations.



When the Michoacanos of Rockwood wanted to mount a huge fiesta, they came to our Sunrise Center. People

from this fractured community drove all of the way from Eastern Washington and Northern California to celebrate with dance, food and family.

We network and empower the faith communities in order to help break down the isolation that poverty brings. We started and now nurture the Shalom Rockwood Network, which is a collaborative of 43 local churches. Its diverse Steering Team channels collective action together in four areas: serving the homeless, welcoming the refugees and immigrants, supporting those in recovery, and mentoring at-risk youth.



*The pastors of Rockwood.*

## PROGRAMS

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We help learners  
by offering  
culturally relevant,  
participatory  
learning  
experiences that  
are close to home.

Our Rockwood English Language Institute educated 100 adults in formal English language classes. Our school is anchored in a new portable classroom that has been given to us by the Reynolds School District

We also directly reach learners through our Homework Club and our Interconnecting Your Community seminar series.








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## LANGUAGES IN ROCKWOOD

More than 88 languages are spoken at home in Rockwood.

Albanian	Estonian	Korean	Nepali	Spanish
Amharic	Farsi	Krahn	Oromo	Swahili
Arabic	Fijian	Kurdish	Panjabi	Tagalog
Armenian	Filipino other	Lao	Pashto – Northern	Thai
Bengali	French	Lingala	Pashto – Southern	Tigrinya
Bosnian	German	Lithuanian	Palauan	Tongan
Bulgarian	Gujarati	Maay-Maay	Persian	Trukese
Burmese	Hindi	Malay	Pohnpeian	Turkish
Cambodian	Hmong	Mandarin	Portugese	Ukranian
Cantonese	Hungarian	Mandingo	Purhepchia	Urdu
Cebuano	Igbo	Mayan	Rohingya	Uzbek
Chamorro	Italian	Micronesia other	Romanian	Vietnamese
Chinese other	Japanese	Mien	Russian	Yapese
Chuukese	Karen	Mina	Samoan	<i>And many more!</i>
Cree	Khmer	Mixteco	Serbian	
Creole	Kinyarwanda	Modeco	Somali	
Dinka	Kirundi	Moldavian		

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## PROGRAMS

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# We help earners by reducing the gap from ambition to achievement.



*Presenting to potential investors at Portland's Multnomah Athletic Club. This is an example of how we connect Rockwood to Portland's broader economy.*

We help people start and grow businesses.

Ed Gibson is the proud founder of Pie to the People, a growing organic pie maker. "The Sunrise Center Kitchen has become essential for my growth," Ed enthuses. "Not only is it a great place to run my business, but the mentoring and support have helped me grow to levels that I thought were unattainable."



Our monthly business networking events (in partnership with BestHQ) help businesses grow.

Our Meet and Certify events help existing small companies gain MWESB status and connect to the Procurement Departments of major companies.



*Right to Left: Multnomah County Commissioner Lori Stegmann, Community Liaisons Vince Jones and Luz Gomez, and Gresham Redevelopment Commission Executive Director Josh Fuhrer cut the ribbon on the Sunrise Center Kitchen for entrepreneurs.*



## PROGRAMS

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# We are a backbone.



We chair the Rockwood Community Action Team, which is a network of 90 community advocates and service providers.

We run the annual Rockwood Knocks! campaign, where 600 volunteers conduct surveys, pick up garbage, distribute voter's registration materials, etc.

We have created and hosted Candidate Forums so that our neighbors can be engaged in the upcoming elections.

We frequently lead the collective action of all of East County's leaders in addressing systemic issues. When a state-level agency announced that they were pulling out of East County, we led the coalition that got that decision modified.

We work to create broad policy and system changes. Various governmental and philanthropic sources invite us to galvanize collective action.





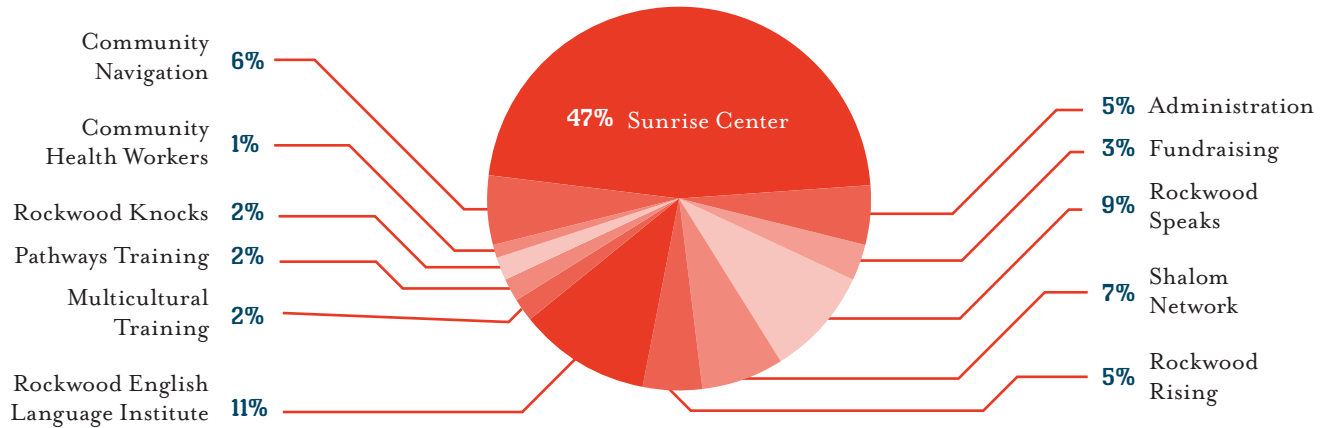
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## We dream of flourishing communities

- with rising levels of financial health;
- where employment and decent housing are accessible by all;
- where health outcomes are excellent;
- where vibrant community life emerges from diversity; and,
- where all show compassion to those who are in need.

Our mission and strategic plan entails: providing ladders for climbing from poverty into prosperity; improving health outcomes; integrating with and creating synergies for existing faith-based organizations and social family service programs; creating and sustaining public-private partnerships; expanding the supply of affordable housing; and, encouraging and assisting commercial development.

## HOW WE SPENT THE RESOURCES



## GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS



And hundreds of individuals.

*Our financial statements are available on our website.*



We run the Sunrise Center, a 12,500 sq ft community center that houses: two multi cultural churches; tenants that need affordable office space; and, a kitchen for emerging entrepreneurial food makers. About 60 events that were created by our neighbors were held.

In 2016, the Gresham Redevelopment Commission bought it in order to keep it from becoming a strip club. We have secured a long term lease for its exclusive use.





## BOARD, STAFF, & VOLUNTEERS

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*(Left to right)  
Vanessa Chambers, Willie  
Chambers, Natalya  
Sobolevskaya, Vincent Jones*



*(Upper)  
John David Pitts, Stephen  
Lasu, Lynn Ketch, Brad  
Ketch, Stephanie Haag, Scott  
McCracken  
(Lower)  
Scott Gillis, Alondra Flores,  
Peter Eversmeyer, Lindsey  
Boulais, Bethany Dykstra*

*Not Pictured:  
Sie Lor, Khadesia Bradford,  
Pam Ferguson*



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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mary Edmeades, Vice President,  
Albina Community Bank (chair)

Rev. Jason Albelo (secretary)

Dr. Steven Holt, pastor and equity  
consultant/trainer (treasurer)

Jose Ibarra, Multnomah County

Eugene Wallace, management  
consultant

Laura Bolanos-Ramirez, neighbor

Lynn Ketch, Director of Wellness  
Initiatives at RCDC

Brad Ketch, President of RCDC

## PRESIDENT'S CLUB

Scott and Vicki Gillis

Brad and Lynn Ketch

Jason and Nikki Albelo

Neil and Kristine Fernando

David and Linda Wojcik

Larry and Sue Spousta

Michael and Hope Brown

Ron and Suzanne Frey

Anonymous

## ROCKWOOD ASSOCIATES

Lori Stegmann and John Sage

Dr. Mel and Tammy McPhee

North Cheatham

Mike and Debby Kelly

Dr. Robert and Carol Potter

Mike and Elaine Edrington

Lewis and Sylvia Ketch

Eugene and Angela Wallace

Anonymous

*Board Chair Mary Edmeades uses  
the Sunrise Center Kitchen to feed  
homeless families.*



**Here is where the rubber meets the road. There are many ways that you can invest in the future of Rockwood, and we invite you to take action now.**

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## GIVE

- Become a Rockwood Associate. As a Rockwood Associate, commit to give \$1,200 per year and to be an ambassador out in your world. As a form of thanks, we will host private social events throughout the year, and offer discounts at merchants in Rockwood.
- Become a President's Club member. President's Club members commit to give \$2,400 per year and receive the benefits of Rockwood Associates, plus a chef dinner.
- Sponsor one adult for a 6-week English class term at RELI for \$190.
- Donations are accepted online or by check. Please see the back of this Annual Report for more information.

## VOLUNTEER

- Do handyman jobs at the Sunrise Center.
- Work at the office two hours per week.
- Read to kids at Homework Club.
- Tutor RELI students.

## LEARN MORE

- The Rockwood CDC Lunch & Learn takes place on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month from Noon–1:15pm at our office.
- We will offer seminars throughout 2017.
- Invite us to speak to your group.



## MAILING ADDRESS

4233 SE 182nd Ave.  
PMB #367  
Gresham, OR  
97030

## OFFICE ADDRESS

18901 E Burnside  
Gresham, OR  
97233

## WEBSITES

[www.rockwoodcdc.org](http://www.rockwoodcdc.org)  
[www.sunrise-center.com](http://www.sunrise-center.com)

## PHONE

(503) 847-9163

## CORPORATE STATUS

We are a 501(c)(3)



*This report made possible by the generous donation of Prographics Services of Wilsonville, Oregon.*