



## 2023 Impact Report



The ROCK Center is a non-profit organization serving the Metro Denver area with a mission of Transforming lives through mindfulness, arts, healing, and a sense of belonging. Our work happens in schools, summer programming, local community centers, and through collaboration with other organizations with a shared vision of transformed communities through deepening interpersonal connections.

## 2023 Impact Report

This past year The ROCK Center has expanded its programs, partnerships, and impact in the community. Our growth can be seen in our expanded staffing, new school partners, and community based collaborations that built on the momentum and clarity of vision and direction established over the last couple of years. We are excited about the trajectory of our work and the opportunity to build our capacity for impact and transformation.

The last year has been one of continued growth, expansion, capacity building, and clarity of the scope and impact of our collective work.

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# External Growth

3

New Community Partnerships



3 New Community Collaborative Partnerships

2

New School Partnerships



2 New School Partnerships

2

Multi-Day Trainings



We hosted 2 multi-day Healing Circle Trainings

## Partnerships

This year we expanded our community collaborations through shared partnering with local non-profits Street Fraternity, La Foret Retreat Center, and The Nature School Cooperative. We also began new school based partnerships with East High School in Denver and Place BRIDGE Academy in Denver.

## Events

This year we partnered in hosting two multi-day trainings that incorporated different modalities of Healing Circle learnings. These "un" trainings created a model of learning by practicing, sharing cultural wisdom, and leaning into the power of relationship and inter-connectivity as a mode of growth. Partnering with Project PAVE, and Wica Agli (a Native American Healing Organization), we created an immersive experiential training that deepened community, built cultural understanding, and honored the path of those called to be in the work of creating healing spaces.

Through continued community collaborations we increased our annual budget by 37% and added four new staff positions to our team.

## Sharing About Our Work

Our Executive Director was also welcomed into two collective learning conferences with other Youth Violence Prevention serving organizations. Corbin was selected and participated in 2023 Children & Youth and Engaging Men (CYEM) Institute Centering Relationships to Cultivate Care in Chicago, Illinois and the Amplifying Capacity Together (ACT Workshop) in Portland, Oregon.

## Program Expansion

This year for the first time, we hosted two community based parenting circles in partnership with our school partners. Working with wellness teams at Joe Shoemaker and Place BRIDGE Academy we hosted two 6 week parenting programs. These evening classes provided food from local restaurants, multi-lingual interpretation, child care, and ROCK Center style youth programming. This approach allowed for families to be in community together in their learning while also honoring the power of connecting around a shared meal and providing relevant and impactful art based programming for the youth.



# Internal Growth

4

New Staff



4 New ROCK Center Staff  
Members

Influential  
White Paper



Produced a white paper that  
shifted the narrative of  
mental wellness

Multiple  
Staff Retreats



Hosted multiple staff retreats  
focused on programmatic  
refinement

Building on last year's internal clarity and programmatic focus we grew our team, refined our ability to communicate our impact, and continued to strengthen our programmatic models.

## New & Expanded Capacity

By adding two new programmatic staff, a financial administrator, and a mental wellness consultant, we have built a deeper capacity for moving The ROCK Center into its next iteration of impact, reach, and sustainability.

## Staff Development

Beyond the healing circles mentioned above, we also hosted a multi-day staff visioning and wellness retreat in August, along with bi-monthly day long staff retreats focused on feedback, relationship building, and program refinement. This has allowed a sense of shared growth and a more circle-based way of leading our organizational growth.

## Infrastructure

We are excited about our new internal systems that increase our fiduciary capacity, accountability, and sustainability that allows us to hone our impact and leverage resources for more directed and meaningful work.

## Continuous Growth

With our expanded staff we have built new Human Resource Systems, new employee policies/support processes, and expanded our internal approach to programmatic review and growth. These essential functions will secure a foundation for future growth, sustainability, and accountability that are rooted in our relationship-based model of community based work.



# Financial Growth



**+37%**

Increase in  
Revenue

37% Revenue Growth

**\$100k**

In New  
**Financial**  
Growth

\$100k In New  
Financial Growth

## Funder Relationships

Our continued relationships with The Colorado Health Foundation, Caring 4 Denver, the Carson Foundation, the Beacon Fund, the Tributary Fund of the Rocky Mountain Conference of United Church of Christ, along with the new partnerships mentioned above have served as major catalyst in our ability to drive impact and build new partnerships in this work.

## Increased Revenue

The expanded funding has allowed us to establish new programmatic partnerships with Street Fraternity, Place Bridge Academy, East High School, and expand our work with the Nature School Cooperative.

This year through foundation partnerships, increased donor cultivation, and our first foray into governmental partnerships we grew our revenue by 37% and built new funding relationships.

# Impact



3

New Programmatic Sites



3 New Programmatic Sites

New Programming



Launched a new parenting program and held our first ever Youth Leader Retreat

97%

Positive Feedback



97% of our participants rated our programming as having a positive impact on their lives

## New / Improved Programming

In addition to our new [Parenting Program](#), we also began our shared work of creating Connection Circles for Young Men through our work with Street Fraternity and Project Pave. This has also led to shared programming through their basketball program, monthly community, and monthly tea times.

Finally, we held our first ever Youth Leadership Retreat for 25 youth leaders across the Metro Denver community where they came and experienced a sense of belonging, connection, and the power of being at Camp La Foret, an outdoor retreat center located in the Black Forest outside of Colorado Springs.

We have more than doubled the community locations of our services, and in turn the number of community based partnerships and shared spaces for continued impact and growth.



## Community Outcomes

Here are some quotes from some of the youth that participated in our programming:

"My favorite part of the Youth Leader retreat was being able to find my authentic self, being happy and joyful, and to become more open on my feelings on specific situations."

—11th Grade Youth Leader

"I liked hanging out with new people and practicing mindfulness, and learning new things."

—10th Grade Youth Leader

"My favorite part of being a Youth Leader was being able to build a community, talk about hard topics that aren't usually widely accepted by society and having fun and laughing together."

—10th Grade Youth Leader



# Thank you.

