

## **Organization Mission/Purpose (continued)**

ROCOC provides at no cost to birth parents or caregivers the following items for children and teens who are active clients of the RCDSS Children's Services Division or Work First Family Assistance participants.

- Beds (twin, toddler, cribs, mattresses, pack and plays)
- Car seats
- Highchairs and strollers
- Used appliances
- Dressers or other storage units
- Clothing, socks, underwear, shoes
- Personal hygiene items
- Diapers, pull-ups, wipes
- Sheets, blankets, pillows, towels, and other household items

The ROCOC Ministry was created in 2006 by several RCDSS social workers and leaders who were led to fulfil a need in the community. The Social Workers realized that oftentimes children could remain safely in homes with their birth families or with other relatives, rather than moving into foster care, if they had items needed in the home to keep them safe and healthy. Unfortunately, there were very few resources to help these families in 2006. The social workers and leaders developed the ROCOC Ministry to provide these resources for children and their families.

The ROCOC Ministry has grown by leaps and bounds since 2006. The Ministry presently partners with 83 churches and Rowan County civic organizations. The ROCOC Assistance Center is housed behind Life Impact Perfecting Church at 1312 N. Main St in Salisbury. Families who are clients of RCDSS Children's Services Division and Work First Family Assistance participants can visit the center once every 30 days to get clothing, shoes, underwear, socks, diapers, wipes, personal hygiene items, bedding and other household items, toys, and books. Larger items, like beds, car seats, dressers, and used appliances are ordered for families and usually delivered to their homes. Families receive these services at no cost.

Donna Beaver, ROCOC Program Coordinator and a RCDSS Social Worker, maintains a full-time office at the center. Volunteers from member congregations and the community give of their time on a weekly basis to assist Mrs. Beaver. Volunteer duties include accepting donations, sorting and putting away donations, and assisting families as they come to the center.

Rowan County Government Information Technology Department provides office equipment including a laptop with wireless access, printer, and a cell phone for the Program Coordinator. Our lease agreement with the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church incorporates that utilities, remodeling, and maintenance are paid for via a reserve fund through the United Methodist Church. (Main Street United Methodist Church was formerly occupying the church space. The property is now owned by the Western North Carolina Conference.)

Normally, ROCOC holds a Celebration Banquet in the spring to honor member church pastors, coordinators, advisory board members, and volunteers. Due to COVID, ROCOC has been unable to hold the spring banquet over the last few years. In the spring of 2022, the ministry created a “thank you” video for our partners. Hopefully, the banquet will be held as usual in the spring of 2023. Another banquet is held in the fall of each year for pastors, coordinators, board members, and volunteers. A program regarding community services awareness is presented at this banquet. ROCOC is currently planning the 2022 banquet.

Donna Beaver actively seeks opportunities to share the mission of ROCOC with the community. She seeks to increase community awareness of the needs of Rowan County children and families and to recruit new member congregations and organizations. Mrs. Beaver meets individually with pastors and church members to expand program capacity.

## **ROCOC Advisory Board**

A ROCOC Advisory Board consisting of RCDSS staff and community members meets three times per year to:

- Receive and review reports regarding donations, numbers of families assisted, and the financial ledger.
- Provide input on program policy decisions.
- Assist in program evaluation.
- Assist in the planning and execution of the annual banquets.
- Suggest program topics for meeting with church coordinators and pastors.
- Educate the community about the program and the RCDSS mission, act as community advocates for the program, and partner with RCDSS to recruit new member churches and organizations.

## **Commitment of Member Church Pastors and Organization Leaders**

- Recruit a church/organization member to act as the ROCOC Coordinator and contact person between the church/organization and RCDSS/ROCOC.
- Sponsor at least one yearly program or project to support ROCOC.
- Keep the message about the needs of Rowan County children and families before the congregation/organization throughout the year.

## **Role of Church/Organization Coordinator**

- Serve as a liaison between the church/organization and RCDSS/ROCOC.
- Articulate program information to church/organization members throughout the year.
- Coordinate at least one project during the year to support ROCOC.
- Attend the spring and fall banquets.

**Rowan County DSS will:**

- Train and support church/organization coordinators.
- Provide printed materials and resources for churches/organizations.
- Plan and host meetings for church/organization coordinators and pastors.

The ROCOC Ministry has a tremendous impact on Rowan County families. In the fiscal year of July 2021-June 2022, \$30,940 was spent directly on purchasing life necessities for children and their families. This includes beds, car seats, appliances, cleaning supplies, bug spray, heaters, dressers, and other items. Additionally, over 250 children were assisted with clothing, shoes, underwear, socks, diapers and wipes, personal hygiene items, household goods, toys, and books through visits to the ROCOC Center. Some of these children were assisted more than once, depending on their needs. Eighty-one children received Easter baskets, and 394 children received Star Tree Christmas gifts. The 2021-2022 financial statement is included below.

## ROCOC FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2021-2022

### INCOME

Church Donations	\$11,176.67
First UCC Grant (received Nov 2021)	\$2800.00
Salisbury Rowan Community Foundation Grant (received Jan 2022)	\$7500.00
Robertson Foundation (received May 2022)	\$8000
Woodson Foundation (received June 2022)	\$10,000.00
Individual Donations	\$7547.55
Organization Donations	\$770.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$47,794.22</b>

### EXPENSES

Beds & Mattresses	\$13,217.63
Used Appliances	\$1639.94
Car Seats	\$2361.68
Supplies for Center	\$316.64
Other – pesticides, cleaning supplies, dressers, strollers, door alarms, lock boxes, clothing, shoes, underwear, socks, diapers, wipes, bedding, fire escape ladders, rent/utilities for families, food/gas cards, heaters	\$11,684.01
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$29,219.90</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE AS OF 6/30/2022</b>	<b>\$78,731.18</b>

It is important to note that the Robertson and Woodson Grants were received in the spring of 2022, and the funds from these grants has not been fully spent. ROCOC did not apply for these grants for the 2021 cycle.

With increased inflation, purchasing needed items for families will become increasingly more expensive. It is also expected that requests for assistance will increase as inflation rises. The ROCOC Ministry opened to the Rowan County DSS Work First Family Assistance participants in June 2022. This will add extra expenses for the ministry for the coming year, but it also allows the ministry to serve more Rowan County families. After reviewing recent requests for assistance, it has become evident that it is important to keep a large stock of sheet sets, pillows, blankets, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, and pesticides in the center at all times. This will allow families to have easier access to these household goods. The projected budget for the fiscal year 2022-2023 is below. An increase in spending is noted due to inflation, the ability to serve more children and families, and a planned increase in items kept at the center.

## PROJECTED BUDGET July 2022-June 2023

### INCOME

<b>Donations</b>	<b>Received (as of mid-July)</b>	<b>Anticipated</b>
Church Donations	\$401.19	\$11,000.00
First UCC Grant		\$2800.00
Salisbury Rowan Community Foundation Grant		\$7500.00
Robertson Foundation Grant		\$8000.00
Woodson Foundation Grant		\$8000
Individual Donations	\$100.00	\$7500.00
Organization Donations		\$770.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$501.19</b>	<b>\$45,570</b>

### EXPENSES

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Spent (as of mid-July)</b>	<b>Anticipated</b>
Beds & Mattresses	\$515.58	\$16,000.00
Used Appliances	\$0	\$2000.00
Car Seats	\$0	\$3000.00
Supplies for the Center	\$0	\$300.00
Other – pesticides, cleaning supplies, dressers, strollers, door alarms, lock boxes, clothing, shoes, underwear, socks, diapers, wipes, bedding, fire escape ladders, rent/utilities for families, food/gas cards, heaters	\$1081.33	\$22,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1596.91</b>	<b>\$43,300.00</b>

Assistance from the First United Church of Christ Foundation will allow the ROCOC Ministry to continue to assist Rowan County children and families. Funding will allow the ministry to continue its impact on the community as inflation continues to rise. Funding will allow the ministry to keep more frequently requested items for families at the ROCOC Center.