

This is our fourth Nonprofit Chamber of Services Nonprofit of the Week. This series has been established with the intent of increasing awareness of the many causes and efforts taken on by our nonprofit brethren. If your nonprofit has a particular event taking place during the course of a week, an anniversary for example, please make this known and we will do all possible to accommodate a spotlight that coincides. On behalf of our membership, we wish to say "thank you" for taking a few moments from your busy schedule to learn a bit more about our community of nonprofits.

This week we are highlighting **Respite Outreach Care for Kids Organization, Inc. (ROCKO)**. Founded in 2002 by Gina Ervay, Executive Director, and her husband, Corey, ROCKO is a program dedicated to assisting families of children with special needs. According to Gina, **the mission of ROCKO is "to enhance the lives of children with special needs and their families through respite care and enrichment experiences that bring fulfillment and balance to their lives."**

ROCKO is a nonprofit organization developing Kansas' only 24-hour children's respite care and enrichment center. ROCKO will serve youth ages infant to 21 years with disabilities or other special medical needs in the Wichita area and surrounding communities. Skilled care services including licensed nursing care will be combined with recreational and therapeutic activities to create safe and enriching experiences where children participate beyond the limitations of their disability and fully engage in the magic of childhood. Family caregivers are given a respite, or a gift of time, to rest, refresh and recharge.

ROCKO is very busy these days. They are hosting in conjunction with WSU's Self-Help Network two public forums for community leaders, case managers working with persons with disabilities, and families on Sept. 22-24 and Oct. 6-8. The purpose of the meetings will include evaluating the needs and strengths within the community to clarify the vision for respite care, a study of the successful respite care centers and building upon the growing momentum to drive the ROCKO vision to reality. All interested are welcome to attend either or both of the planning meetings. A copy of the invitation is included as an attachment. Also attached is an article on the Ervay's recently printed in the Wichita Register.

If your interest is learning more about how you can assist families with special needs children, we highly encourage you to make contact with Gina Ervay at 316.218.9363, or visit ROCKO's website at www.rockoinc.org.