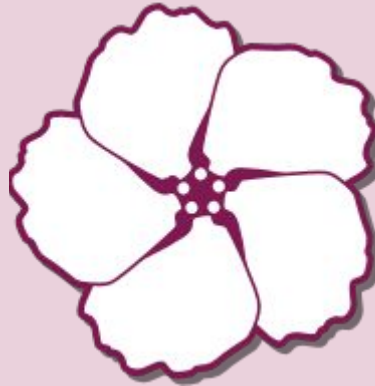


An Introduction to Rock Rose Foundation

Application Guide Series: Episode 1



Welcome to “An Introduction to Rock Rose Foundation” - the first episode in the our Application Guide video series. In this video we will talk about why the foundation got started, our mission, who we are, and a little about our granting history.

It’s important to note that this video series is specifically designed with the Rock Rose Foundation grant application in mind. While much of the information may be helpful in completing applications for other grants, you should **ALWAYS** make sure you are aware of each individual grant’s rules and expectations.

Rock Rose Foundation is a private family foundation established in January 2022.

- Guided by local voices, we support organizations working toward just and equitable community development.
- Particularly interested in new, small, or non-traditional programs
- Seeking sustainable, original, impactful, and diverse partnerships throughout Bell County, Texas.



Rock Rose Foundation is a privately funded family foundation started in 2022 by Michael and Solange Hommel in collaboration with Kelsey Hunt. The purpose of this foundation is to support small-scale, local organizations in exploring and alleviating the root causes of inequality and disenfranchisement. These root causes, as identified by the co-founders, include (but are not limited to) access to food, housing, education, healthcare and community building. Along with a focus on these root issues, Rock Rose Foundation prioritizes funding new, small, or non-traditional programs that might face barriers in accessing other funding - with a focus on sustainability, originality, impact, and diversity. Rock Rose Foundation was named after the native Texas flower, the rock rose, that flourishes in a harsh environment, is often used to ease erosion, and spreads enthusiastically.

Who are we?

A combination of family members and local community members

- Board members guide growth and big-picture decision making
- Community Advisory Committee members guide grant-making decisions

Focused on developing relationships and partnerships

Committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion

2025 Board Members



Kelsey Hunt
Co-Founder &
Executive Director



Solange Hommel
Co-Founder



Mike Hommel
Co-Founder



Kathryn Ingbritsen
Board Member



Jennifer Lee
Board Member



Tanya Roper
Board Member



Thomas Hunt
Board Member



Suzanne Hommel
Board Member



Julie Evans
Board Member

The Rock Rose Foundation board consists of a combination of family and community members. Board members shape and guide the policies and practices of the foundation. All funding decisions are guided by recommendations from a community advisory committee, known as the CAC. The CAC is made up of local community members with a deep understanding of their communities' specific challenges and priorities. Each Rock Rose Foundation board and CAC member was chosen to help the foundation reflect and represent the culture of compassion, mutual aid, and collaborative effort so prominent in Bell County.

Rock Rose Foundation is committed to continuously working toward a more relationally-driven model of philanthropy. As an organization, we seek to recognize and address the deeply entrenched practices, cultural norms, and decision making structures that perpetuate inequities. Rock Rose Foundation promises to approach the work we do in our community with a sustained commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. We promise to remain committed to this practice, and when mistakes are made we will adapt and continue the conversation.

Granting History

2022

- 11 applicants
- 8 grants
- \$38,400 total

2023

- 25 applicants
- 17 grants
- \$179,600 total

2024

- 37 applicants
- 25 grants
- \$217,400 total

~ Our Partners ~

ACT Pasifika	IMPAC Outreach
Bell County Child Welfare Board	Inspired Designs
Blessings on the Block	Jaybird Learning Academy
Boys Matter 2 Men	Kidney Resource Network
Bring Everyone in the Zone	Killeen Creators
CASA of Bell & Coryell Counties	Killeen Wisdom Center
Cen-Tex Alcoholic Rehab Center	Legacy Entrepreneur Academy
CenTex Herencia Foundation	Neurodivergent Friends
CenTex Pride Community Center	New Life Village
CenTex Youth Services Bureau	NJHCC Cares Center
Children's Advocacy Center of CenTex	Our Hospice House
Community Outreach Ministry Efforts	RESET Love, Inc
Family Promise Bell County	Richard Allen Community Development Corporation
Feed My Sheep Temple	Rural Mutual Aid
Foster Love Bell County	Scootable, Inc
Free My City Outreach	Temple Pride
Garden of Hope	Unity Visitation Center
Greater Killeen Community Clinic	Variety of Texas
Harker Heights Lions Club	Words Unite Bookstore
Helping Hands Ministry	
Hilltop Recovery Ministries	

As a new organization, Rock Rose Foundation has experienced a lot of growth in recent years.

In our pilot year, 2022, we received 11 applications and gave 8 grants totalling \$38,400. By 2024, we were able to give a total of \$217,400 to 25 of our 37 applicants during our regular grant cycle. Grant sizes generally range from \$2,000 to \$20,000 dollars, depending on the needs and abilities of the program. Our partner organizations come from all over Bell County, and cover a wide range of community needs.

Rock Rose grant recipients have helped provide vision screening, assistance with prescription medications, and kidney health screening. They've developed education and mentorship programs for local youth, both in and out of the school setting, to support reading, entrepreneurship, and cultural awareness. They run programs for foster children, veterans, individuals in hospice care, and adults with disabilities, as well as individuals dealing with homelessness, substance dependence, and a variety of mental or physical health challenges. They create safe and nurturing spaces for people across all of life's spectrums.

Thanks!

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www.rock-rose.org

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kelsey@rock-rose.org
Board Chair: Solange Hommel
solange@rock-rose.org



That pretty much sums up Rock Rose Foundation. You can learn more about our foundation's leadership, values, and granting history by visiting our website at www.rock-rose.org. You can find links to the resources mentioned in this video on our website. Our executive director, Kelsey Hunt, is happy to answer questions about the foundation and our grant application. You can reach her via email: kelsey@rock-rose.org.

In the next video, called "2025/26 Grant Cycle," we will talk about eligibility, timing, and requirements for the grant cycle that opens in Sept 2025 and is funded in Apr 2026.