



## History and Mission Statement

**Rock For Kids** is a non-profit organization that provides support, hope, inspiration and assistance to underserved children and teens. Realizing that music can be a positive motivator in a young person's life, **Rock For Kids** provides free year-round music education for children in need. **Rock For Kids** positively impacts and celebrates young lives by offering access to safe and constructive learning experiences through which children may challenge themselves, build self-esteem and explore their own creative potential.

**Rock For Kids** was initiated in 1988 by volunteers in Chicago's music and entertainment industry who wanted to give back to the community and was started as a grassroots effort to raise money to purchase holiday gifts for homeless children. In the beginning, **Rock For Kids** functioned as a grant-making body, giving holiday assistance to agencies in need, and supplying Chicago's homeless children with toys and necessities for the holidays. The founders and volunteers involved in **Rock For Kids** shared a love of the arts, and music in particular. Many of the participants were musicians themselves or worked in the music field. And so as the need to provide stimulating activities for children living at sites benefiting from Holiday Shopping became apparent, it was only natural that **Rock For Kids** shift to a programmatic format, bringing free, quality music education into the lives of Chicago's under-served children. While **Rock For Kids** still honors its past by continuing its holiday shopping program, the main emphasis on programming is Youth Jam.

Rock For Kids is a licensed Illinois 501c3 organization. All contributions are fully tax-deductible.



In September 2004, Billy Corgan of the Smashing Pumpkins performs with Rock For Kids' Youth Jam Choir students from St. Paul middle school who provided back up vocals live on WXRT radio.