



## History and Mission Statement

### MISSION

**Rock For Kids provides music education to underserved children in Chicago, sparking creativity and passion, teaching critical thinking, supporting academic achievement and enriching young lives.**

### **History:**

**Rock For Kids** was initiated in 1988 by a small group of volunteers in Chicago's rock music and entertainment industry as a grassroots effort to raise money to purchase holiday gifts for homeless children. The founders involved in **Rock For Kids** shared a love of the arts, and music in particular. Because of the rapid decline of music education in the nation's public schools, **Rock For Kids** shifted its focus in 2000 to bringing free quality music education into the lives of Chicago's underserved children.

Starting with 20 children at one site, **Rock For Kids'** free music instruction grew to serve 1,000 students at 18 sites throughout the city during the 2009/2010 school year. Classes included: Children's Choir, Piano, Ethnic Percussion, Songwriting, Blues band, Songwriting/Production and Rock Band.

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 who provided back up vocals live on WXRT radio.