

## Rockville agency raising funds for multipurpose community facility

By Barry H. Hendrix  
The South Alabamian



Alesia Burrell Rockville Community Outreach, Inc. (RCOI) is raising funds to build a picnic pavilion and multipurpose room where local programs will be presented for the residents in the community south of Jackson.

The nonprofit agency promotes community leadership and the need to fill in the gaps in services not provided by local government and social agencies.

The new facility will be built on the site of the old schoolhouse, said Alesia Burrell, executive director of RCOI. The goal is \$30,000, she said. "That will cover the construction and the insurance." She hopes to start construction in the spring 2013.

They have \$5,500 already in the facility fund. "Considering how small a community we are, I think that is great...I'm out there every week trying to find some type of funding that will help us along the way."

Fund-raising will be sent out soon to businesses. "We may be in a rural community and not in the city limits, but we patronize all the businesses (in Jackson)." People from the community work in Jackson companies, Burrell said.

Donations can be sent to Rockville Community Outreach, Inc., P. O. Box 1343, Jackson, AL 36545

The RCOI held its first meeting of the new year this past Saturday at Mt. Olvin No. 1 Baptist Church. Meetings are usually the first Saturday of each month.

Membership in RCOI is open to anyone.

The nonprofit organization was organized in 2010 by concerned citizens in the Rockville community to address improvement of roads in the area. Burrell said the community initially needed representation with the Clarke County Commission for things to get done.

The agency solicits monthly dues from members of the community. Those dues can be as little as \$5, she said.

“We are not a faith-based organization,” she said. “However, we are founded on Christian principles because we definitely want to help our fellow man.”

They have sponsored community cleanup efforts in April for the past three years.

The Academic Excellence Program (AEP), which is a signature program, rewards local students. During the 2011-2012 school year, RCOI rewarded on average 11 students for making the “A,” “A&B” and “B” honor rolls during each nine-week reporting period.

With the generosity of several sponsors they gave away two Kindle Fire tablets and \$100 in cash prizes for a summer reading/ essay contest for middle and high school students. “Just anything to motivate the kids,” she said.

There has also been a school supply give-a-way.

RCOI was granted IRS 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, nonprofit status in March of 2012 and joined the Jackson Area Chamber of Commerce in April 2012.

For more information, browse to the agency’s web site at [www.rockvilleoutreach.org](http://www.rockvilleoutreach.org).