



## WINTER 2025

### MISSION

A gateway of opportunity for youth in Rockford

### CONTACT US

Patriots Gateway  
Community Center  
615 S. Fifth Street  
Rockford, IL 61104  
admin@patriotsgateway.org  
815-967-0413  
www.patriotsgateway.org

### DONATE HERE



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rev. Denver Bitner  
Betsy Carlson  
Derricka Davis  
Mike Gann  
Amanda Kirchner  
Tom Palmgren  
Ashley Sarver  
Sherry Silverberg  
Tedd Snowden

### STAFF

Rev. Dr. Michael Thomas  
*Executive Director*  
Janice Forrest  
*Site Director*  
Dorian Robinson  
*Business Manager*  
Jason Waak  
*Literacy Coordinator*  
Mya Barrett  
*Summer Camp Coordinator*  
Denzel Banks  
*Urban Farm Coordinator*  
Malika Miller  
*Park Players Coordinator*

Dear Friends of Patriots Gateway Center,

As we approach the end of the year and planning for the next year we would like to share with you what your contributions have been able to do at Patriots this year (see enclosed sheet). We would like to ask to be included in your year end giving for 2025 so we may continue our current programs and add new ones for the coming year. Our goal for the campaign is \$75,000.00.

There are several ways you can donate:

- ⇒ Single donations by check in the enclosed envelope
- ⇒ Online donation made on our website either one time or on a monthly basis at [www.patriotsgateway.org](http://www.patriotsgateway.org)
- ⇒ Stock donations - transferring appreciated stock shares to lessen capital gains tax and receive tax deduction (please call 815-967-0413 and set up appointment)
- ⇒ Naming rights to new structures or building improvements (please call 815-967-0413 to set appointment)
- ⇒ Include us in your final planning structuring future charitable donations as part of your financial estate plans to support Patriots and leave a lasting legacy.
- ⇒ Help us establish an Endowment Fund with a one time large investment.

Finally, I want to thank you for your support of Patriots and the children and youth of our community. Your gift of \$90 provides a week of care for kids in our After School Program. A gift of \$200 sponsors a basketball player or boxer for the year. Help us to continue to keep children off the street and in life enriching activities and relationships.

Thank you,

Rev. Dr. Michael Thomas  
Executive Director

# 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

During this past year, Patriots was able to provide a “gateway” of opportunity for over 1,500 children and youth of our community. I am so grateful to our board, staff and volunteers for leading our programs this past year. We’ve been serving the neighborhoods of Midtown for over 27 years. Our mission is to continue to be a *“gateway of life enriching opportunities for the children and youth of the Rockford area.”* We have a great staff that has been leading our programs. We continue to strengthen our board and committees in order to expand our programs and grow our funding.



We have a lot to be thankful for this year, including...

- ♦ The best boxing program in the region led by Jimmy Goodman, with over 75 youth.
- ♦ Four AAU basketball teams under the leadership of Mike Newble working with 60 youth.
- ♦ Our annual Easter Egg Hunt, Trick or Treat Party and Christmas Event for 800 people.
- ♦ The Park Player program where 5 teens learned conflict resolution, social emotion learning skills and leadership experience during summer camp.
- ♦ Celebrating the creation of the Ruthie Fairchild Urban Farm
- ♦ Expanding our literacy program with over 1300 hours of reading and 400 books given away to the kids of our programs.
- ♦ Serving 52 kids for summer camp programs and activities.
- ♦ Offering 45 kids a safe place for our After School Program.
- ♦ Providing 5,940 free meals for kids all year.
- ♦ Giving away 50 turkey baskets and 75 backpacks of school supplies.
- ♦ Giving away 500 presents to kids; 200+ clothing items, hats, gloves and coats.
- ♦ Hosted the Fourth Annual Rockford Boxing Classic at City Pavilion
- ♦ Gathered for our Annual Pub Night to honor the people that make Patriots great!

We continue to be a recreational center that offer a great climbing wall, pickleball court, gym, golf center, expanded playgrounds and growing urban farm program. We are looking to expand our literacy focus from the United Way by seeking funds to hire a Literacy Director in 2025. We plan to expand our 2025 Park Players mentoring initiative and Urban Farm program.



Summer Staff 2025



Ruthie's Garden Party