

Love Rocks: *continued from front page*

across the country and around the world.

When Susan Dieter-Robinson and Tom Robinson's daughters Anna (6) and Abigail (11) were hit and killed by a car in front of their home on October 20, 2013, Susan and Tom decided they would not let this single moment define Abby and Anna's lives. They took a project they had done for their wedding in 2011, cutting small hearts from pieces of fabric and Mod Podging them to river rocks for their guests, and decided to share it with others as a way of spreading the love and joy that Anna and Abby had brought into their lives. Susan created a Facebook page with their story and a tutorial of how to make the rocks, and with a prayer, sent it out into the world.

In the past 16 months Love Rocks have been shared, first around Forest Grove, then around the state of Oregon, then to neighboring states, across the country, and even around the world, reaching Europe, Africa, Asia, South America, Australia and even Antarctica.

Wendi and Mason learned how to make Love Rocks directly from Susan herself. Formerly residents of Forest Grove before they moved to Vernonia last year, Mason was in Girl Scouts with Anna. Susan came to the Girl Scout troop and taught the girls to make these symbols of love.

When they moved to Vernonia Wendi and Mason decided they wanted to share the rocks with their new town, and recruited Mason's friend Hayden.

“When we first moved here, I noticed that we had not seen any Love Rocks



around town, so we thought we should start spreading the love,” explains Wendi. They originally made some batches last spring and put them out around town, and really enjoyed the response, so they made another batch of 400 to give away during the 4th of July parade. For Jamboree they made over 1,500 rocks and ran out before they reached the end of the parade. Recently a new batch of Love Rocks was hidden around town.

“Anna and Abby's parents are just phenomenal people, just amazing Christian people who trust God with everything and that's how they've gotten through this,” says Livengood. “They've found a way to turn this into something positive and remember Anna and Abby.”

Mason (10) is in fourth grade and Hayden (9) is in third grade; they



Hayden Rau and Mason Hummel have been placing Love Rocks around Vernonia this past year.

became friends while playing softball this summer. They also live in the same neighborhood.

Both girls say that while hiding their rocks around Vernonia, they have found Love Rocks made by other people, so the love is definitely spreading as others around the community have joined in.

Some people like to hold onto a Love Rock when they find it. Others like to give it to someone special in their life. Some people like to take the rock and hide it somewhere else, and share the

experience of finding it with a stranger.

Livingood said that while getting coffee at Black Bear recently, the girls set a rock on the counter. Before they left the rock was gone; someone had quietly found it and picked it up.

“Maybe they'll see someone who is feeling down and hand it them,” says Livengood.

“That's what I did at the Food Bank,” adds Mason. “I think it might have changed the lady's day that I gave it to, because she had a smile on her face after I gave it to her.”

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