

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD!

Rock House Kids has finished its busy Christmas season. We were able to provide over 2,077 gifts to some very excited children. Now we are focusing on moving ahead and expanding help to more children. We practice the motto “Help a child today and you won’t have to repair an adult tomorrow.”

We fed over 8,629 kids hot meals in 2016! This figure doesn’t include the second and third helpings dished out! Because of our



great supporters we were able to distribute coats, hats, gloves, shoes and boots to the children. Provided also were blankets, school supplies, backpacks, lotions, tooth brushes and tooth paste. We gave out kid friendly take home food bags too! These are only some of the physical needs met.

When Jana came into our building recently, she brought her report card. She was excited to show her past failing grade was now a passing one. Since we do what we can to help our kids reach their educational goals, we were thrilled for her!

Mark told the staff about his basketball game. His smile could be seen from across



the court when staff and volunteers came to see him play. No one had ever done so before!

Lucas and Jordon moved away last year, but through Facebook, they kept in touch with us. When they returned to the area, Lucas came through our door announcing, “I’m home!” He then explained how much he had missed Rock House Kids. He told a volunteer, “I have been here since I was five years old. Now I am twelve, so that’s been most of my life. I never want to leave again.” Jordon then joined in and said, “Wow! Pastor Dola, you got shorter!”



Rock House Kids is glad we are still here and growing strong. With the help of our financial and physically backing supporters, we are achieving our goals together.

With each year we’re here, we strive to make an impact on the children who walk through our doors! This year will be no different. We plan on making improvements to the building to allow more space for classrooms. We hope we can find ways to work together with you this year.

—Dola Gregory, Founder and CEO

SUPPORT CORNER!

We are thankful for the wonderful Supporters who help us each month: **Thank you Tabb and Vonnie Busker for covering our January 2017 mortgage payment!**

ARE YOU THE MISSING PIECE?



Individuals, churches, businesses, and civic groups have provided foods for our on going hot meal program. Each night of programming, we serve the children a hot meal. If you are interested in cooking a hot meal for one of our evening programs, please contact us by email at barb@rockhousekids.org or call 815-962-5067. Thank you so much!

GO DIGITAL



Would you like to receive this newsletter by email instead? Send a note to barb@rockhousekids.org

Also, Check out our Facebook page for exciting news about all the great things happening at Rock House Kids.

CURRENT NEEDS



We have a special “Annual Drives” list on our website and also included with the physical copy of the newsletter. For January, we are asking help for lotion and lip balm for our kids. Feel free to drop these items off Monday-Friday between 9 am and 3 pm. Thank you so much

Did You know?

Rock House Kids offers hot meals, provides basic life essentials (toiletries, winter coats, school supplies, Christmas presents, to name a few), teaches moral character traits, and kid friendly food take home bags? **Yes, we do!**

“We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.”

Mother Teresa

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Chuck Lundgren

After school program Tutor
 Chuck started tutoring our kids faithfully back in 2011. We appreciate Chuck for his tutoring skills and for all the help he gave to our students during the after school program. He even filled in for a few months when we were short handed on classroom volunteers



Kelly Vinje-Willoughby

Kelly has played an active part in the Rock House Kids program since 2011. She is actively involved with Rosie's Birthday Club and makes sure a fun party takes place each month. She connected us with the YMCA and the Ski Broncs! She is also on our Advisory Committee. We appreciate her enthusiasm!



Paul Iverson

Board Member
 Paul has played an active role as a Board Member since 2011 helping to make decisions that help Rock House Kids run smoothly! Paul is owner of Iverson Painting and has helped many times with paint options for our classrooms.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Daniel Bross President
Rich McLaughlin Vice President
Sandra Trotter Accountant
Lori Mitchell Secretary
Paul Iverson
Bradley Gummow

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Kelly Willoughby
G & G Construction
Robert Smith Electric

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WONDERFUL SUPPORT.

BECAUSE OF YOU, WE CAN CARRY ON!

Donations received from November 11 – December 10th



PEBBLES:

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 Cornerstone Family Church
 Craig & Patricia Gramke
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 David Knoblock
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 Donna Getty
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STONES:

AAbundant Grace Church
 Advantage Power Network
 Bethany Presbyterian Church
 Carole Anderson
 Club Blue of Rockford
 David G. & Leslie H. Moore
 Dawn Waggoner
 First Baptist Church
 Flora Community Church
 Frank & Margaret Shappert
 Frank Campbell
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 Lee Gaus
 Liberty Ministries
 Linda & Robert Pearce
 Lori Mitchell
 Marian Strand
 Marie Barth
 Mary Martha Society Of
 St John Lutheran
 Mary Van Camp
 Matt & Nancy Myre

Miriam Circle (ELCA) of
 St. Mark Lutheran
 Mom's Club of Rockford
 Mosaic Rockford
 My Friend's Closet Thrift Store
 N. Yvonne Peterson
 Nancy Giese
 P.J. & G.M. Anderson
 Pamela Anderson
 Phillip & Ferol Labash
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 Robert & Debra Marner
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 Rockford United General Baptist Church
 S. & B. Schilling
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 Mary Lou Sterkeson
 Try Beta Foundation
 Virginia Harting
 Yvonne & Tab Busker

MOUNTAINS:

Woodward, Inc

MEMORIALS:

Barbara Muno - her son
 Karen Weiss - Betty Shott

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MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY!

Feel free to tear off the bottom portion and send it along with your next donation: Check here if no recognition is desired

Individual/Church/Service Group/Organization Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address _____ Phone Number _____

Enclosed is my gift to help continue the work at Rock House Kids: _____

Check the following: Monthly Gift One Time Gift Special Occasion "In Memory/Honor of _____"
(Circle One)

Thank you so much for your support! You ARE making a difference in the lives of hurting and hungry children in our community.