

Up and coming...

MEET THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Happy New Year!

For those of you that I have not had the privilege of meeting yet, let me introduce myself. My name is Deanna Lacny. I’m known as “Ms. Dee” around Rock House. So, when we meet, please call me Dee. I’ve been blessed to be part of the Rock House family since 2014. I began my journey as a part time bookkeeper using my past experience, and bachelor’s degree from NIU. Within a year, I had changed positions multiple times and landed into the position as Chief Operating Officer in 2015 where I was able to mentor under Dola Gregory for two years. While under Dola’s mentorship I obtained my pastoral license. Her mentoring will prove priceless now that I have taken on the position as Executive Director. Dola Gregory has left an amazing legacy, and I’m honored to be able to carry it on with the help of an amazing staff, Board of Directors, and team of volunteers. But most of all by the grace of God.

When a new year starts I like to reflect on the past and look forward to what the new year will bring.

2017 was a very busy year here at Rock House Kids!

- New classroom and cafeteria area for first and second graders opened which allows us to increase our number of kids by 50.
- New entrance opened. This has the kids away from the parking lot and by the crosswalk when they come and go from our building.
- Volunteer Team increased by 18 people. More people to care for the increase of kids!
- Puppet Team and Praise Dance Team are back. These teams help the students find self-confidence. We hear the kids tell us they “can’t” do things because of what they have been told by others. Here at Rock House “can’t” is a four-letter word that won’t be used. We have an area where we put up pictures of the kids called “Rock House Kids of Possibilities”. The kids are told they can be ANYTHING they want to be. It doesn’t matter



New entrance

what the world is telling them. They are children of God and with God you can achieve more than you ever imagined. We encourage them to work at it and don’t give up. We tell them to believe in themselves.



Praise Dance Team



One of our new classrooms

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Did you know...?

Rock House Kids is seeking happy volunteers who will serve in our kitchen on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 5-8 pm! Please call our office 815-962-5067 or email info@rockhousekids.org for an application. Thank you!

MEET THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONTINUED...

- Mime Team performances.
- Partnership with District 2 Police Station. We're building the gap between police and the kids.
- Many giveaways: blankets, sleeping bags, pillows, hygiene items, socks, underwear, t-shirts, shoes, winter coats, boots, hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, flip-flops, chap-stick, lotion, flashlights, school supplies, and backpacks.
- Summer camp for fifth and sixth graders.
- Winter camp for seventh through twelfth graders.
- Many summer field trips thanks to a Rockford Park District Grant.



Teen Winter Camp

All of the blessings mentioned above could not have been provided to the kids at Rock House without the generosity of donors like you.

In 2018 we are looking forward to:

- Continue building on our current programming to make the kids feel safe and welcome; a place to call their own.
- Increase the number of kids we reach.
- More community outreach with District 2 Police Station; bringing change to the community one-step at a time.
- Opening Thursday evenings for 7th through 12th graders. This will give more opportunities for people to bring food, serve in the kitchen, and work with the Teens. The Teens are very excited to have two nights like our younger students. This will also keep the kids off the streets one more night.
- Teach the kids to respect others and themselves, take responsibility for their actions, and to do what is right even when it is hard.
- Continue to encourage, equip, and keep the kids safe.
- Continue to have Rock House as a place of stability for the kids. When a kid is bounced from place to place, they need to know that Rock House will always be a stable place for them.

I hope you are as excited about 2018 as we are at Rock House Kids.

Looking forward to a great year together!

Dee Lacny, Executive Director

New year and new options for giving!

There are different ways in which to give:

Feel free to submit your donation through check and drop it in the mail using our envelope or send to the address below.

Name _____ Address _____

Gift options: \$ 75 \$100 \$50 \$ Other In memory of/In honor of _____

OR you can make a donation by using the PayPal Giving Fund-it is quick, easy and secure. PayPal helps your gifts do more good by working to ensure charities are in good standing. They confirm the status of all participating charities, organizations and agencies. When you donate via PayPal's Giving Fund, all fees are on them **IF** you access and make your donation through **our unique PayPal link and page:**

www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1300516

Thank you so much for making a difference in a child's life!