

Father's Day

For many of us this is a happy day with happy memories. We can look at pictures of our dad, think back on happy times spent with him. We know our dad's name, his family history, where he worked, we have met him...things we may take for granted. At Rock House Kids these things are luxuries. So many of our kids at Rock House do not even know their dad's name or have never met them.



There was a fifth-grader named Ethan. He was newer to Rock House and a very rough kid. He would come in for the program and wouldn't smile. He would push through the crowded cafeteria and heaven forbid if anyone stepped in front of him. Ethan would push kids out of his way, to the point where they would fall to the ground. When he was spoken to, he would just grunt. There seemed to be no getting through to him.

Then it happened...a break through. A teacher came up to me after class and told me he wanted to talk to me about Ethan. Mr. C. told me Ethan was playing with his wallet—throwing it up in the air and catching it. When Ethan was told to put it away he got mad and continued to throw it up and down. Then another kid in the class grabbed the wallet. That's when Ethan got very angry.

Now I am going to stop the story for a second. What we practice at Rock House is to get to the heart of the child to see where the behavior is coming from. So Mr. C. took Ethan aside to find out what the anger was really about. During that conversation, he discovered Ethan's dad was incarcerated, and that he made the wallet for him. Ethan was missing his dad and wanted to see him. He was angry that his dad is in prison. He was angry that the only thing that he had to feel close to his dad was a wallet, so he was protective of it.



I would like to say this is a unique story. But frankly, I could talk for hours about the kids at Rock House who have absent fathers; kids who ask for envelopes and stamps so they can write to their dads in prison.

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THIS MONTH WE'RE COLLECTING



Need all sizes for ages 6-18
Donations accepted during
office hours 9 AM to 3 PM

Thank YOU!

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It's common for boys of imprisoned fathers to exhibit more delinquency and aggression, and for girls to have attention problems. Both boys and girls will have lower self-esteem, are teased more often at school, and are more likely to retaliate against those who tease them. A study conducted by Central Connecticut State University showed children of incarcerated fathers are three times more likely as other children to have justice-related problems.

We need men at Rock House Kids. We need men to be examples, or to just lend an ear. We need men to care about the kids and to show these young men and women of the future what a Godly husband—father—man looks like.



We need men to care about the kids and to show them what a Godly man looks like.

Psalm 68:5 states that God is the *Father of the fatherless*. We need to be Jesus with skin on for these kids. We need to give them hope when there is none. We need to show them they are loved, and teach them how to love others.

If you're a man reading this, I'd like to ask, do you have children of your own? Do you enjoy teaching them how to do things? How about the difference between good and bad or right and wrong? Are there things you learned from your father or another Godly male role model, that you can pass on to this younger generation? If so, there are kids waiting to be connected to people like you. They need someone like you to speak truth into their lives.

Call our office between 9-3 Monday through Friday, to learn how you can help.

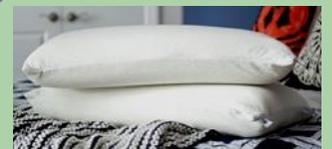
Blessings,



Dee Lacny, Executive Director

JUST AROUND THE CORNER - SUMMER CAMP!

Winter just ended, yet warm weather is here and plans are under way for summer camp. This year we'll be taking 25 fifth and sixth grade boys and girls to Rock River Christian Camp. It's a fun two nights and three days in the campground in Polo, Illinois. Their days will be busy with swimming, games, and great lessons. The kids come back exhausted and filled up with God's love and purpose.



HELP! We need 24 adult-sized sleeping bags and 24 bed pillows, before August 10.

Myths Debunked

Have you thought about volunteering at Rock House but don't think you've got the right stuff? We're here to debunk some common misconceptions about what it takes to be a volunteer for Rock House Kids.

1. **We only want retirees.** FALSE. While retirees make great volunteers because they have more time, we have people from age 18 and up who help in the evenings after work, or at special events. Young adults make great volunteers because they communicate well with kids and often make a special connection.
2. **You need to be a people person.** FALSE. Not everyone is outgoing and loves to talk. Some kids want to talk about their day or tell their whole story and just need a good listener.
3. **You must commit to a regular time or schedule.** FALSE. Not all of our volunteers have a regular schedule. Some come in when they have free time. We'll talk with you to figure out what you can do and when.
4. **You don't have the skills needed to volunteer.** FALSE. Everyone has their own set of unique talents. Tell us about yourself and what you enjoy doing—we'll find the perfect spot for you.
5. **You're worried you'll say or do the wrong thing.** DON'T WORRY! All of us were new to Rock House at some point. Our staff will teach you the ins and outs of working with troubled children and teens. Before you know it, you'll wonder why you waited so long to help out!

Did we miss anything? If so, please give us a call. We are happy to talk to you about how you would fit as part of our amazing team of volunteers.

To apply, download the Volunteer Application from our website. Rock House Kids needs YOU!

The BIG EATS TOUR Continues!

Last month Rock House Kids held their annual Flapjack Fundraiser at Applebee's Restaurant. We want to send a HUGE thank you to both employees and volunteers who served pancakes, bacon, coffee and juice, and sold perennial plants outside, to about 100 diners. The weather was beautiful, the food delicious, and the fellowship was fun!



EVENT CALENDAR

Thursday June 28

BIG EATS TOUR
Portillo's

6090 E. State St.

Rockford, 5:00 PM.

A portion of the proceeds
benefits Rock House Kids.

Fri & Sat June 20-21

Kiwanis Brat Days

Reduced admission tickets
available at RHK office.

Saturday June 20

Rock House Kids

Night at the Speedway

50/50 Raffle

Sunday June 29

BIG EATS TOUR

MOD Pizza

State Street location

A portion of the proceeds
benefits Rock House Kids

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday October 4



Radisson Conference Center
Delicious Appetizers
Gourmet Sweets
Guest Speakers
Silent Auction.

More details to come!

rockhousekids.org

Did you know...

...Rock House Kids receives no state or federal funding? Every dollar we receive comes from generous corporations, civic groups, churches, and individual who want to help.

...we serve more than 250 inner city children per week? And the number is rising. During the summer when school is out, more children will come through our doors.

...we focus on teaching each child important moral character traits, how to know right from wrong, how to avoid gang involvement, and basic life skills. Teens are mentored to become responsible and honest young adults.

...the kids we serve come from all over the community? Some live right in our neighborhood, but many live across town in the low-income projects, and need rides to get to and from Rock House. Our volunteers sometimes pick up kids, and we have a nightly route we drive with our 15-passenger van. If it weren't for the transportation we provide, they would have no way to get to Rock House.

...it costs \$6,289 each week to keep our building open so we can serve the hurting and hungry children in our community? That includes a \$775.57 mortgage payment, utilities, supplies, and more.

...it takes more than 100 volunteers to run our programs each week? In addition to our week-night events, they also help with outside activities such as field trips and camps, and fundraising events.

...at each visit, every child receives a hot meal and is sent home with a bag of kid-friendly, non-perishable foods for the next day. The cost of both exceeds \$3,000 every week.

By now you might be asking yourself, how can I help?

Here are a few ways:

- Donate a meal one night, or sign up to donate once a month. It's fun and easy—we'll provide all the details.
- Help on a program night leading a classroom, serving a meal, picking up kids, or assist with a field trip or other special event.
- Hold a fundraising event at your workplace—they're fun and everyone loves to help! Collect kid-friendly food items for our take-home bags, school supplies, or other needs.
- Donate life essentials such as body wash, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, socks, underwear, blankets, flashlights, batteries, etc.
- Provide paper plates, paper towels, napkins, toilet paper, or cleaning supplies.
- Give financially—no matter how much, your dollars help offset the costs of our day-to-day operation and upkeep of our building.

For more information about how you can help Rock House Kids serve Rockford's inner city kids, please visit rockhousekids.org or call our office at 815-962-5067.

We can't do what we do without you.



A warm, safe haven for inner city kids ages 6-18, four evenings a week.

1325 7th Street • Rockford, Illinois 61104 • p 815-962-5067 • f 815-962-5651 • rockhousekids.org