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THE HOT LIST

We currently need:

Boots

Sizes: Kids 11c to
Mens / Womens 13



Vinyl Gloves

Waterproof sizes:
Children - Adult



Socks

Thick, warm socks



Hats

All Sizes/Styles



Bar Soap/ Body Wash

Any brands



We accept donations from 9:00-3:00
Monday through Friday [QR](#) order
through our Amazon Smile page
and have items shipped right to us.

THANK YOU!

Board of Directors

Mark Morris, *President*
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Dee Lacny, *Executive Director*

Patience: Some Things Take Time

"But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to son ship." *Galatians 4:4-5* Galatians speaks of the set time. Whether we are waiting for a special event, a promotion, a job interview, or even a baby to be born...it is hard to wait.

The same goes for Christmas at RHK. As soon as we ask them for their top three Christmas gifts, it starts the launch sequence to the unending questions of "When do we get our presents? When is the party? How much longer do we have to wait?" For those of you who have young children or teens in your lives, you know exactly what I am talking about. Now multiply that by 250! Waiting is hard, no doubt about it!

Sometimes the children must wait even longer to open their presents. When some of them receive their gifts, they don't open any of them. Others open just one, or sometimes they open all their gifts then rewrap them because these may be the only Christmas gifts they receive.

At Rock House Kids, we as adults get frustrated about waiting, too. Working with children to not fight, or not say those "bad" words, or to keep them out of the street life and yet...they continue to do what we ask them not to! What do we do? Do we give up? Or do we trust that at the set time all that has been poured into the children will come to fruition? We teach them biblical principles knowing as Isaiah 55:11 says, His word will not return void.

Recently, a former RHK graduate, had to leave college to help take care of his family because one of the siblings was getting into trouble and the other sibling was getting involved with gangs. The older sibling felt the need to help protect them and get them on track. The older sibling is a graduate from Rock House Kids which means they are over 18 years old. Do you know that when they got back into town one of the first places they came was Rock House Kids? This is their safe place. A place they know they can relax, unload and not have to worry about anyone. They can be vulnerable and be themselves.

Instead of getting discouraged we must trust the set time for this child and all the others is yet to come. We are blessed to be able to be on the journey with them. We must be patient and continue to be present. Just as we must be patient at Christmas time for our presents and parties, we need to be patient for the set time of our Lord's return.

I personally want to thank each one of you who have followed us through the year either by social media, receiving the newsletter, or having us come and speak to you and your group. We have been blessed beyond measure. Your continued support to help the inner-city children have full bellies, warm coats, take-home food and most of all hope and consistency. Without YOU we couldn't bring hope to the children who feel hopeless or bring love to the children who feel unloved.

The children wouldn't have an AMAZING Christmas without everyone who has/is donating for the children's celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Rock House Kids family to yours!
Looking forward to see what the Lord has in store for Rock House Kids in 2020!
Thank you for being a part of God's plan.

Dee Lacny, Executive Director

Paying it Forward - A Rock House Kids Leader in Action

One of our Rock House Kids was so thankful for the blessings he receives from the help of others who donate to RHK, he wanted to help out and give back. He came up with an idea and approached his Student Council at Bloom School asking them to sponsor a sock collection to benefit the kids at RHK. They were all in and themed October as Socktober. Their goal was 200 pairs of socks...but the final count was 650! We are so proud.



Classroom Christmas Pictures Highlights



Williams Tree Farm - 2nd Annual Tree Cutting

On November 16th, we ventured out in the cold to William's Tree Farm with the teens to cut down a tree for the main cafeteria at Rock House Kids.

Last year was the first time many of our teens were able to experience what it was like to cut down a live Christmas tree. This year was no different. We had some repeat kids, but many were new.

To watch the kid's faces as they marveled at nature and all the activity around them is priceless from the horses pulling the trailers to the hundreds of beautiful trees to choose from. It just never gets old to look through the eyes of kids who are experiencing something new. Their eyes widen for a moment as the dogs run up to them and when the kids see the other animals, they eventually run towards them, too. There was hesitation and laughter! Once the kids got themselves acclimated, they had a blast.

The kids give those of us who have been to Williams Tree Farm year after year a renewed excitement for the season and traditions. At RHK, we are building traditions and memories for the kids.

A part of the tradition is to go back to RHK and decorate the tree. We also have lunch, hot cocoa, and a Christmas movie to make it even more special. The kids love having something they can look forward to and count on. So many parts of their lives are not consistent. They know being at RHK, there is consistency. They can count on Christmas being made special for them.

Many asked if we would be able to go again next year. Yes, they can count on it. THIS is one of our RHK traditions.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Reminiscing About Legacies Left Behind

While in a meeting at Rock House Kids not too long ago, someone mentioned a volunteer who recently passed away. Then another name was mentioned and another. We reflected on the several people we lost this year and realized, they may have passed away but their legacy still remains with us today.

Jim Johnson: Jim did not work directly with the kids but helped tremendously with setting up a sound board/booth that helped us with our evening programming. Without his special knowledge and expertise, we would not have been able to make the sound system as good as it is today and still working great!

Chuck Lundgren: Chuck worked for many years tutoring kids in all grade levels and helped with their homework. He was able to see improvements when they came back week after week showing their homework assignment grades and the big smiles on their faces.

Ruthie Fairchild: Ruthie loved children and it showed when she came and served in the kitchen once a month. She called all the kids “baby” and the kids responded so well to her.

Bryce Russell: Bryce first came to us as a hot meal deliverer provided by the Kiwanis Club of Rockford. Once he heard there were openings to serve in the kitchen the same night as the food, he signed up. He was a jolly man. While everyone enjoyed his antics, they also knew his love for the Lord, the kids and the Packers!

Yes, these volunteers were here for only a little while but they remain in our hearts and in the activities we still do today. We appreciate the efforts put forth in our sound booth. Kids needed tutoring and someone was able to provide that needed help. Serving a hot meal to a hungry child is not a chore but a privilege and these volunteers showed it.

They have left a legacy that will never be taken away. They shared their love of God to a child and their efforts will always be remembered. Leaving a legacy is a special gift. You may not be able to come to Rock House Kids to physically serve but you may leave a legacy just the same. *“What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others. ~ Pericles*

If you want to leave a legacy, there are many ways you can.

You might consider one of these:

- Bequests through a Last Will & Testament
- Charitable Gift Annuity, or Life Insurance
- IRA Withdrawal
- Appreciated Stocks, Bonds or Mutual Funds
- Gifts from a Donor-Advised Fund

If you would be interested in volunteering with us in some capacity, please contact our office at 815-962-5067 or info@rockhousekids.org. We would love to meet with you and find the right spot for you to serve.

BIG EATS TOUR - Pizza Ranch

Thank you to everyone who came out to Pizza Ranch on what was a VERY cold Veteran's Day. The RHK staff and volunteers had a blast “serving” you this time around! Next up, the teens and staff will be serving at Culver's on East Riverside, Sunday, December 8, so save the date!

Remember, a portion of the sales are donated back to RHK!



A Year of Blessings!

<p>JANUARY</p> <p>RHK was finally able to occupy the remaining portion of the building and expansion is now underway.</p> <p>A group of teens had an amazing time at Covenant Harbor Winter Camp.</p> <p>Teens enjoyed trying their hand during a bowling field trip.</p>	<p>FEBRUARY</p>  <p>RHK enjoyed a special Valentine event night.</p> <p>The kids all received warm blankets.</p>	<p>MARCH</p> <p>The kids loved receiving new undergarments and socks.</p> <p>The 2nd Annual Rock-n-Bowl fundraiser was a fun-filled time for the community.</p> 	<p>APRIL</p> <p>Hygiene kits containing deodorant, body wash, shampoo and more were given out.</p> <p>Easter baskets were delivered to the children courtesy of Alpine Kiwanis.</p>
<p>MAY</p> <p>Hundreds of kids received new shoes.</p> <p>Kids and teens surrendered their hearts to Christ and were baptized.</p> <p>RHK took part in Young at Heart Parade and received the Best Youth Group Award.</p>	<p>JUNE</p> <p>The kids celebrated "Promotion Night" as each of them moved up a year to a new classroom.</p> <p>The kids enjoyed a field trip to In His Wakes water sports event.</p> <p>The kids enjoyed a picnic and all the animals at Lockwood Park .</p>	<p>JULY</p> <p>Dozens of volunteers from Mosaic Church painted and cleaned our facility during their missions week.</p> <p>RHK kids got to soak up the sun at Alpine Pool.</p> 	<p>AUGUST</p> <p>Over 200 backpacks with school supplies were handed out.</p>  <p>The 5th and 6th graders had the time of their lives at Rock River Christian Camp.</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>A new convection oven was delivered courtesy of a grant from the Mill Foundation.</p> <p>Annual Streets & Sweets fundraiser SOLD OUT this year!</p> <p>The kids loved the fun fair inspired Back-to-School cookout.</p>	<p>OCTOBER</p> <p>Many flashlights were given away to help keep the kids safe.</p> <p>The teens got to travel to Life Church for Trunk-or-Treat.</p> 	<p>NOVEMBER</p> <p>Teens traveled to Williams Tree Farm for the second year to cut down a tree for RHK.</p> <p>Warm outdoor gear and boots were handed out to the kids.</p> <p>A Thanksgiving feast was shared with the help of Kiwanis Club of Rockford.</p>	<p>DECEMBER</p> <p>More than 1,000 donated gifts, stocking stuffers, and candies will be sorted and wrapped by dozens of volunteers.</p>  <p>Over 10,000 hot meals were served this year and 10,000 kid friendly food bags were handed out.</p>

*Special items are given away each month. However, there are many times throughout the year the children will need these items refilled or replaced.

YES! I want to help Rock House Kids!

- I want to be an **Angel of Love!** Please send me more information.
- Use my donation of \$ _____ where most needed.
- My donation is in honor of: in memory of:

- I would like information on volunteering.
- I/My group would like to provide a hot meal. Please call me.
- I have included Rock House Kids in my estate planning.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please mail to:
Rock House Kids 1325 7th St.
Rockford, IL 61104

Thank you!