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THE HOT LIST

We currently need:

Warm Blankets

Twin/Full Size



Easter Candy

Individually wrapped



Deodorant

Any brand or size



Underwear

Size 4 children's to mens/womens 4X



Chapstick

Any brand



We accept donations from 9:00-3:00 Monday through Friday OR order through our Amazon Smile page and have items shipped right to us.

THANK YOU!

Board of Directors

- Mark Morris, *President*
- Bryan Selander, *Vice President*
- Laurie Cook, *Secretary*
- Marla Gregory, *Treasurer*
- Bobbi Marks-Cooper
- Dee Lacny, *Executive Director*

Winter Camp - Becoming Relentless

On February 7, 2020, Rock House Kids teens had the opportunity to go to Winter Camp at Covenant Harbor in Lake Geneva for the weekend. Each year as we head to camp we never know what to expect. There are years when the teens are excited to be there, where they cooperate and make new friends. Other years, they do not connect with the speaker or the teens from the other groups.



This year was exceptional! The kids were excited to head out of town for the weekend. Many have not been out of Rockford, let alone Illinois. The first night there, the kids were able to be kids and go to the activity center and, play basketball, ping-pong, air hockey and just hang out until we were introduced to the speaker.

Throughout the weekend, the speaker focused on being "Relentless". He spoke of how God has relentlessly purposed you for good, is devoted to your life, loving you unconditionally, and seeking you in every dark place. After each session, we would go back and reflect on what the speaker talked about and how it applied to us. The first night we asked the question, "Why did you come to Winter Camp?" Every teen said so they could get out of the house and a few of them elaborated about why they did not want to be at home.

The next day was jammed packed with more sessions, time to play and build on our teamwork as well as getting to know each other on a deeper level. Some of the teens participated in activities that stretched them out of their comfort zone. They rock climbed to the highest of heights, while others went on the giant swing that is released as you are high in the air, and others went into the frigid waters for the Polar Bear plunge.



Saturday night was a night to cherish and remember. After the speaker shared about God's relentless, unconditional love, there was an activity with stations called Sacred Spaces. There the kids could draw, pray, light a candle, and meet with others. This was a time for the kids to reflect on their lives. From Sacred Spaces, we went to our small group time. The vibe in the room was different, it was heavy. The kids opened up about their lives, their own actions and even actions forced upon them. They discussed how they want to make changes in their lives and to have a purpose. They shared their pains, success, hopes and dreams for the future, but most of all they supported one other. No one made fun of the person who spoke and no one judged the others for what they had gone through or done. Instead, the group came alongside of each other offering hugs, wiping away tears and showing true compassion.



Winter Camp - Being Relentless (continued from page 1)

The small group time went on for over ninety minutes. The kids missed the last night party, but didn't seem to care. They became a stronger "family" that night. They realized how many things they have in common and saw they were not alone in their pain. They saw love in action...God at work!

One of the teens said that the only place he doesn't feel judged is at Rock House Kids. He noticed when he stopped coming to Rock House Kids, he started making poor choices. But when he comes on a regular basis, there is always someone there to listen to him and help him make the right choices.

Rock House Kids is not a magical place. We do not have any super powers to make all of the pain disappear. What we do have is a foundation in Christ and we put John 3:30 into action. It states, "He (God) must become greater, I must become less."

A generous donor came alongside Rock House Kids and paid for all of the tuition for camp. Another group of donors provided brand new sleeping bags, pillows, pillowcases, towels and toiletry bags for every teen. It was because of these donations the kids were able to have such a life changing experience. Without the community caring for our future generations, these amazing opportunities would not be able to happen.

Seven of our teens were baptized on Tuesday, February 11. It is such a blessing to see lives that were changed. One of the girls said, "I feel all fresh and new," and one of the boys told me they were so excited to have a new beginning.

Thank you for your continued support and love for the inner-city children! Whether you donate financially, help with our monthly needs, allow us to come speak to your group, or give of your time you are a part of the Rock House Kids family!

Dee Lacny, Executive Director



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: Barb Seaworth



Barbara Seaworth started her journey somewhere back in the late 2000's as a volunteer sharing music time and special songs with the Rock House Kids and then went home. She felt a nudging on her heart to stay longer and began to teach a third grade class. "I remember it was very hard to teach a class of many students and not have enough table space to do a craft or enough chairs to sit it. There was another class who also shared space in the large group area away from my class but it was so difficult to communicate anything because the acoustics were so poor. I tried not to give up as I knew these kids were hungry for attention and wanting to hear the good news about God's love for them", said Barbara.

In 2009, she was hired as the secretary for Rock House Kids. She also served on the first Board of Directors as Secretary. She moved onto CEO Assistant, then as the Outreach Coordinator, and recently ended her career with Rock House Kids as Grant Coordinator. She had written a bi-monthly blog for the Rock House Kids website and helped with setting up hot meals for the kids with local businesses, churches, individuals, and civic groups in the community.

As the years progressed, she continued to volunteer and found taking a new class of students of different ages was very enlightening. "Having been a Sunday School teacher at my own church for several years helped me to understand the curriculum and how students learn. Some evenings the children challenged me to the brink but most nights I was able to see through the kid's behaviors and realize they just need to have fun, relax, and know someone cares about them. This is a place they can do that", explained Barbara.

Now she teaches a Puppet class to different students every four to six weeks or every time there is an upcoming holiday such as Christmas, Valentine's day, Easter, or a fundraising event. The kids sparkle and shine the night they perform. "I have so enjoyed this process. The kids learn to respect puppets and are eager to work together to make this performance their own" shared Barbara, "Many of the students come out of their shell. They are able to explore an activity they didn't realize would be so much fun."

Barbara Seaworth has lived in the Rockford area all her life. She is happily married and has two grown sons. In 2019, she was blessed to join the Grandmother club and is truly enjoying all of the benefits that entails.

ROCK-N-BOWL

Want to join in on the fun?

DATE:	Saturday, April 18
LOCATION:	Park Lanes Bowl 5318 N. 2nd St, Loves Park, IL
CHECK IN:	7:00 p.m. Bowling and Buffet starts at 7:30
COST:	\$40 per couple — Bowling and Buffet \$10 per person — Buffet only
INCLUDES:	3 games, All-You-Can-Eat Pasta Buffet, Shoe Rental

9-Pin No Tap: 9 pins down on 1st ball = Strike

Scotch Doubles: 1st person throws 1st ball, 2nd person throws 2nd ball

50/50 RAFFLE ~ RAFFLE BASKETS ~ FUN & FOOD

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
rocknbowl.rockhousekids.org

Want to sponsor a lane?

32 LANE SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

GREAT ADVERTISING EXPOSURE!

- Sponsor's sign will hang at the sponsored lane for two weeks, including during the event, to be seen by more than 3,000 patrons!
- Sponsor's name will be announced throughout the event.

2 AFFORDABLE ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES!

\$150 - Sign with logo **\$100** - Sign with 4 lines of text

TO RESERVE YOUR LANE SPONSORSHIP OR FOR
MORE
INFORMATION CONTACT

Melissa Campbell (815) 962-5067 x.106

PLANTING GROWTH - BECOME A VOLUNTEER

When you think of March what comes to mind? At Rock House, we think of the first day of spring. As spring starts, you see new life. Plants begin to grow. Birds start to chirp. The air is fresh and sweet smelling. There is life in the air.

We love this time of year. It reminds us we can have fresh starts and new beginnings just like the plants. At times, it feels as though the winter days are never going to end and then one day it is spring again.

Life can feel like this as well. Many times, we feel as though our "winter" days will never end. We are stuck in the cold days when the days are short and the nights are long.

Many of the kids at Rock House Kids feel the same. Sometimes their "winter" days last for months, and even years. Thinking of one of our girls in particular, she has not been able to go to school all year. Her parent has not enrolled her in school. She needs to be at home to watch her younger siblings. She has to make sure her siblings bellies are full, they are clothed, and the older ones get to their bus on time. The rest of the day, she is making sure the younger siblings are safe and she meets all of their daily needs until her parent comes home in the evening.

Much time has been spent with this teen, as she has poured out her heart. She expressed her frustrations as well as her hopelessness that her situation will ever get better. All she needed was someone to sit down with her and hear her, just TRULY HEAR her. Are you that person to sit with a child who feels as though their "winter days" are never going to end? Are you the one to encourage a child to see that "springtime" is coming?

Give the office of Rock House Kids a call at 815-962-5067, between the hours of 9-3 to set up a tour or to speak with us about how you can help a child who is looking for hope in a new beginning.



YES! I want to help Rock House Kids!

- I want to be an **Angel of Love!** Please send 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!

If you would like to change your method of newsletter delivery to email or unsubscribe, please call our office at 815-962-5067.