

In This Issue

- Director's Letter, 1 & 2
- Employee Spotlight, 3
- Computer Lab, 3
- Rock-n-Bowl, 4
- Angels of Love, 4

THE HOT LIST

We currently need:

Cereal Cups

Any brand



Granola Bars

Any brand



Fruit Cups

Individually packaged



Capri Suns

Any flavors



Underwear

GIRLS - Size 4 girls to Women's 3X



We accept donations from 9:00-3:00 Monday through Thursday OR order through our Amazon Wishlist 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*

FAITH GUIDES US THROUGH UNCHARTERED WATERS

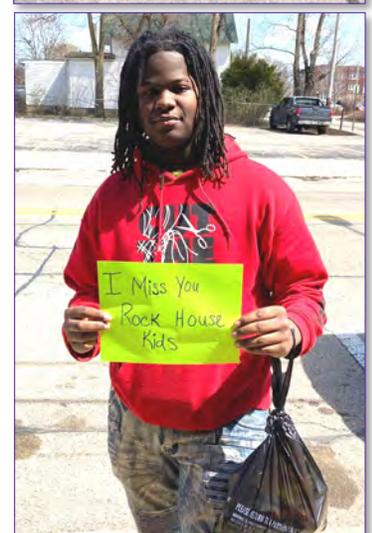
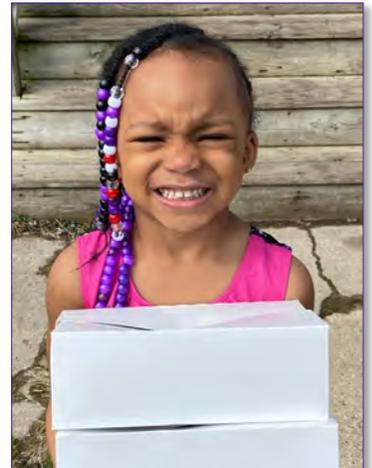
As I am sitting here writing the newsletter for May, we are in the thick of the COVID-19 pandemic. I don't know about you but it is hard for me to watch the news. There are so many contradicting viewpoints to how long this pandemic will continue. What exactly should we be doing? There are some people who are fearful while others are in denial. How long will the Stay-at-Home order continue? People are worried about their jobs. The kids are worried they're not going to pass on to the next grade because of all the school they have missed.

Many of the facts about COVID-19 are unknown. However, what I do know is the doors have not been open to our kids since Thursday, March 12! The hallways and classrooms are lifeless and there is no movement in the evenings. We miss hearing the laughter, chattering, and yes, even the arguing. When the kids are in the building, we know they are safe and off the streets. We know they are having a hot meal and able to hang out with friends they may not see otherwise.

I know we have kids and families who are going without hot meals. I know my phone is ringing daily, and on the other end is one of our kids asking why they cannot come back. They want to know when this is going to be over. They tell us they miss their "Rock House family."

Every day since the Stay-at-Home order we have been in the office. We do not have the doors open for programming but during the day we are planning, catching-up, and seeking out funds so we are able to go out each week and take food bags, necessities such as socks, hygiene products, and sometimes we are even able to hand out box lunches to our kids. We've been cleaning, purging, preparing, and getting ready for the kids to return in a BIG way.

I've had people ask, since Rock House Kids is not open to the kids, what are you doing? I have also had people ask why we are continuing to go in the office and my reply is because we are an essential organization. We are essential because we are still caring for their daily needs. We are essential for the security of our kids to know we are here for them in the good times and the bad times. They need to know when we say we have their back, we mean it. We are a sense of stability in this very unstable time.



FAITH GUIDES US THROUGH UNCHARTERED WATERS

Many of the kids have been reaching out to us on social media. The relationships our staff and volunteers have cultivated with the kids continues even though we can't be physically face-to-face.

Even through uncharted water, we are still afloat. That's because of the community, prayer support, and the selfless acts of people who come out and help fill food bags, stuff newsletters, and more, so we will be able to continue to serve the kids when this chaos is over.

There is a singer named, Josh Wilson. He sings a song named "Before the Morning" with the following lyrics:

*"Would you dare, would you dare to believe
That you still got a reason to sing
Cause the pain that you've been feeling
It can't compare to the joy that's coming"*

Knowing we will be back with the kids when our nation gets back to some sort of new normal gives us a reason to sing. The pain we are going through because of not being with our Rock House Kids family will end one day. And OH, what a joy that will be for all of us!

While we wait, we can stand on the words in Deuteronomy 31:8 says, *"Do not be afraid or discouraged for the Lord will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you. He will neither fail you nor abandon you."*

We can take courage in knowing our Lord will not abandon us.

I'm coming to you today to be bold for our kids. I am asking you to continue to remember our kids. If you are able to donate financially or provide food items for the kid friendly food bags, you would be helping keep stability in a child's life during a scary time.

If you want to help with the kid friendly food items but are afraid to go out and purchase them, Rock House Kids' Amazon Wish list has needed items. Amazon will deliver them right to our door. If you choose to purchase items this way, please let us know. We want to make sure we are able to thank you.

Dee Lacny, Executive Director



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: Melissa Campbell



Hello, family! I'm Melissa Campbell and I joined the Rock House Kids family in April 2016 as the Bookkeeper. As with many small but mighty nonprofits, job titles and positions are fluid and I have been our Finance and Marketing Coordinator for the last year and a half. Finance, as in I process monetary donations we receive and make sure our bills are paid; I also keep you posted on our various social media accounts. Are you following us? You can find us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube!

I enjoy each part of my job....my calling. Calling? Yes! I feel to really fulfill (and be fulfilled) by this position in a Christian-based nonprofit, is a calling. We're not here for the big bucks; we're here to do God's work. I am so thankful I get to be here and help God's kids. To hear, and occasionally see, what some of our kids are going through, is absolutely heartbreaking.

That's one of the many reasons it's so important we're HERE. Oh man, when we get to see God's working changes in one of our kids – YES! We get fired up and thank Him even more as that is truly the mission of Rock House Kids. We want each and every child we serve to know God's unending, unfailing love for them.

Born and raised in the greater Rockford area, I attended and graduated from the Harlem School District. I have been blessed to be married to my best friend, Don, for 17 years. We have two daughters, Madisen and Piper. We attend Riverside Community Church in Machesney Park. I enjoy music and love getting to see someone live. I am eclectic to what I listen to. Working with numbers all day, I always have music on in my office. It helps me think! I also enjoy cooking and camping. I'm ready for a long weekend to pack up the tent and head out for some nature, quiet, and conversation with my Father.

I close with an excerpt of a go-to song of mine – Moriah Peter's "You Carry Me"

*Every moment of my life
God, you never left my side
Every valley, every storm
You were there, you were there
I don't need to know what's next
You'll be with me every step
Through it all, through it all
I can see you carry me*

NEW COMPUTER LAB COMPLETED!



After acquiring the final space of our building more than a year ago, our first expansion phase is complete and the timing could not be more perfect! Our kids need more help than ever as they are left to navigate "distance learning" due to the recent school closures. Very few of our kids have the assistance, resources and internet access to continue their studies and are falling far behind. Recently a family reached out asking for help, so until the social distancing ban is lifted, we will only be taking a couple of the kids at one time.

However, once the doors open for good, the computer lab will be an important addition to our program and serve many purposes. They will be able to get help with their homework, have the ability to access the internet for research, search for jobs, get assistance with resumes and learn programs essential for their future.

We would not have accomplished this without the help of our generous volunteers who put in countless hours and provided their expertise with painting, flooring, electrical and plumbing. We THANK YOU!

We are currently looking for volunteers interested in tutoring. Please contact the office or visit our website to fill out a volunteer application.



UPCOMING EVENTS

ROCK-N-BOWL

NEW DATE: Friday, June 23 (formerly 4/18)
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

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 will not be sold at the door.

Tickets available at rocknbowl.rockhousekids.org

A PORTION OF PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT A NEW SOUND SYSTEM FOR THE CHAPEL AT ROCK HOUSE KIDS FOR MORE INFO CONTACT

Melissa Campbell 815-962-5067 x 106



DECLUTTER For a Cause



RUMMAGE SALE

ITEMS NEEDED

We know many of you are cleaning out your closets and homes during the Stay-at-Home order. Rock House Kids

is in the process of planning a Community Rummage Sale! As you go through your things, we ask that you consider donating all or a portion of your gently used items to us. All you need to do is come to the office Monday-Thursday between 9am - 3pm and we will unload your items. We do ask when donating clothing the items are "gently used", laundered and free of stains. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us.

BECOME AN ANGEL OF LOVE



Hunger, physical abuse, gangs, drugs...These are some of the real social problems many of the children at Rock House experience. It doesn't matter if they are male or female, where they live, their financial status, or the color of their skin. But Rock House Kids strives to break the cycle. We want to change the life of every child we see, by providing him and her with a warm, safe, loving place to go each day.

We need you.

Rock House Kids receives no federal, state, or city funding. We rely solely on the money we receive from individuals, organizations, churches, and corporations in our community.

A child needs you.

When you sponsor a child, you offset the cost of curriculum and a take-home food bag for one child on one night. We're fortunate to receive donated items, but it's just not enough. We never know how many kids will walk through our doors on a given night. Your sponsorship will ensure a child gets the food they need and the life lesson we teach every time.

Rock House children are often transient so they may not attend regularly, but that doesn't lessen their needs. Protecting their privacy is very important. You will not meet a child, but you will receive quarterly updates telling how your monthly support is helping one of our kids get the essentials he or she needs. The cost to sponsor a child is \$43.50 per month, or \$522 per year—that's about \$10 a week. You may sponsor as many children as you like. The length of the sponsorship fully depends on you! We hope you'll commit to give for a year in order to really see the good your help is doing for a child.

It's quick and easy, with payment through a monthly charge on your credit card, or by sending a check.

Can we count on you to give the gift of love to a child in need? Please indicate your interest in the return below or go to our website to sign up to be an Angel of Love today.

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.