

In This Issue

- Director's Letter, 1 & 2
- Board Member Spotlight, 3
- Rock-n-Bowl, 3
- Building Updates, 4

THE HOT LIST

We currently need:

Antibacterial Wipes

Any brand



Copy Paper

8 1/2 x 11 reams



Fruit Cups

Individually packaged



Capri Suns/Mini Bottled Waters

Capri Suns - any flavor



Cereal Cups



We accept donations from 9:00-3:00 Monday through Thursday [QR](#) 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*

WEATHERING THE STORM

As I sit and look around my office, I see colorful pictures our Rock House Kids have drawn, the heartfelt notes they have written, and pictures with their smiling faces. I close my eyes and imagine seeing all of their faces right now. In some of those faces, I see hurt that runs so deep you wonder how a little six-year-old could endure such deep pain. I see another who has clenched fists because they are so angry and I wonder what this little one has seen, heard, or what has happened to him to make him so angry.

I see the face of a child who has a new bruise and they flinch when you come near them. Where is that child today? Are they safe? Are there new bruises? What about the child who is touched inappropriately? Where can they get a few hours of peace? Of safety?

Then I think about when the children are able to come in the doors of Rock House Kids and I can physically see the tension drip away as they come further in the building. Why does this little one already know the weight of the world? What is dragging them down?

We are still able to have some contact with children during our weekly food runs and through messaging. Here are just a few of the situations we have heard from our children and what they are dealing with.

My heart broke when I received a message from one of the children who told me about their pregnant cousin who was shot and killed by her boyfriend. I wanted to jump through the phone to be there for them and give them a hug or just sit with them and let them cry on my shoulder.

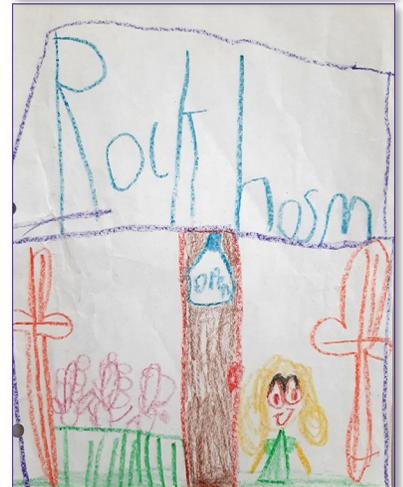
There was another call about a person one of the kids knew who was shot in the face multiple times. And still another call, where one of our families was struggling because they had a sibling running from the law then was caught and arrested. These are not just stories. These are actual events that have happened to our kids just in the past month.

In normal times, we can be a support to the children. We can be a shoulder for them to cry on or someone they can talk to and ask questions. When these events happen, they run to Rock House Kids for a sense of peace and normalcy.

At times, we feel helpless and defeated at Rock House Kids. We know parts of our family are hurting and we cannot get to them. We cannot hug them and love them through their difficulties. Yes, we can call and talk to them (if we have a correct number) but it is not the same as physical touch.

Rock House Kids has been closed since March 13th for programming. This is too long. Where are the kids? What are they doing? Are they safe? Do they have enough food? Socks? Underwear? Do they have anyone to hug and love on them? To encourage them?

continued ►



WEATHERING THE STORM

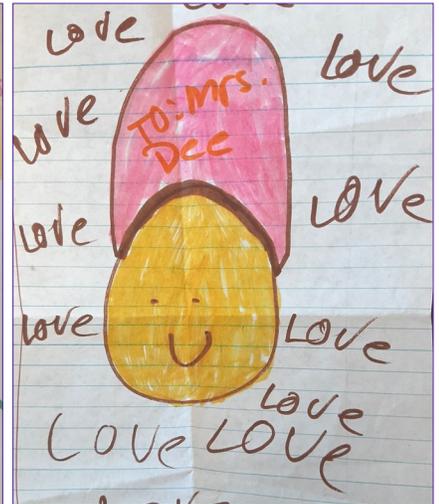
According to WIFR 23, they reported there has been a rise in domestic abuse. The vulnerable group of children are now caught in the middle of the violence and uncertainty. The children are in the home all day since they cannot go to school. At RHK, we recently opened the computer lab to help students with their schoolwork which also opens the door to emotional support, too. We can have a limited number of children at a time and still follow social distancing.

In the meantime, what do we do when we are frustrated and discouraged? We plan...and we are planning BIG! When we are allowed to open our programming, we are going to have a weeklong celebration and a Grand Reopening!

The kids are going to walk into a building that has a new kitchen, freshly painted walls, shampooed carpets, a sanitized playground, a freshly cleaned garage area with lines painted for a basketball court and most important, safe and loving arms.

This past month we have had people call and ask how the children are doing. We have even had people continue to drop off donations so we can still feed the children each week. Thank you to those who have continued to donate financially, who have dropped off and mailed items, who call or write words of encouragement, and who pray for the kids and our mission. WE cannot make a difference to the hurting children without YOU!

Dee Lacny, Executive Director



LAST CALL FOR ROCK - N - BOWL

DATE: Friday, June 26 (*June 23 was a misprint in last newsletter*)
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

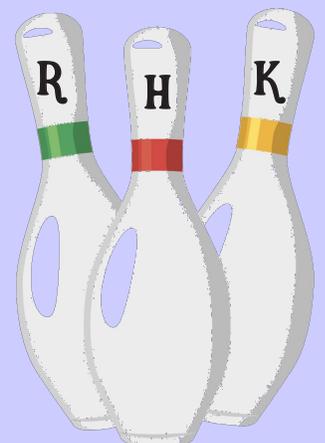
50/50 RAFFLE ~ RAFFLE BASKETS ~ FUN & FOOD

Tickets will not be sold at the door.

Tickets available at rocknbowl.rockhousekids.org

A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT A NEW SOUND SYSTEM FOR THE CHAPEL AT ROCK HOUSE KIDS
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT MELISSA BY JUNE 23

Melissa Campbell 815-962-5067 x 106



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Bobbi Marks-Cooper



Bobbi Marks-Cooper's involvement with RHK started in June, 2019. Her interest was piqued by the love for RHK shown by her Pastor, Rev. Dr. Kenneth R. Board, as he reminded the congregation of their commitment to support Rock House Kids through their "jug ministry." Proceeds from the money collected in the five-gallon jug each Sunday is donated to RHK each quarter on behalf of Pilgrim Baptist Church.

Bobbi is also a former foster parent with a passion for children. "I am grateful to God to serve at RHK. The need is real, and I am still exploring my "niche" in the organization; but, for now, I currently help with kitchen duties and cleanup on most Wednesday evenings, support some meetings/programs, and, of course, serve on the RHK Board. I am excited about how the Lord continues to bless the organization!"

She enjoys meeting new people, and says that the staff and volunteers at RHK are amazing. One of her goals is to help recruit more volunteers and to increase the involvement from local churches. As a member of her church, she sings in the choir and participates in the annual Vacation Bible School. She is single and has six siblings—two brothers and four sisters.

Bobbi grew up in the Rockford area and was a graduate of Rockford West High School and Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, IL. From 1970 to 1996, she lived and worked in several other cities – DeKalb, Illinois; Columbia, Tennessee; Charlottesville, Virginia, and New Castle, Delaware. Her career has included jobs in Human Resources Management, Education, and Adult Probation.

Since 2015, she has been happily retired, and her time has been spent volunteering with a number of community activities and organizations including American Red Cross, Purple Tea Coalition, IREAD Program, Rockford Police Department, Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (CFNIL) Scholarship Committee, Rockford University's "Community Friend for Foreign Students" program, and Rock River Food Pantry.

If you would like to join our volunteer family, we have a many options to choose from to match your interests that include program volunteers, van drivers, kitchen helpers and many behind-the-scenes opportunities. If interested in learning more about RHK or to complete an application, please call the Rock House Kids office or visit our website at <https://rockhousekids.org/be-a-volunteer>. We would love to hear from you!

RUMMAGE SALE UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who donated your household items!
We received some really nice things and a great variety.
Due to the overwhelming response and our storage capacity
we are **NO LONGER** accepting items.
The date for our sale is still TBD but we will keep you posted.



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

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

Thank you!

ROCK HOUSE KIDS GETS A FACE LIFT

Staff and volunteers have been busy giving Rock House Kids a face lift during our temporary shutdown. This gives new meaning to the phrase “Spring Cleaning” and we have been reorganizing and cleaning every inch of our facility. Along with the cleaning, we’ve been busy repainting many rooms and hallways thanks to Iverson Painting who generously donated all of the paint.

The high bay area received painted basketball court lines and four square lines on our playground courtesy of the groundUP stores! Mr. Goodwater donated their services and installed a new filter on our playground fountain and Simply Perfection Mobile **Auto Spa** donated their professional services by cleaning and disinfecting our playground and high bay area floor. We are so blessed these businesses have chosen to come alongside Rock House Kids! Our kids are going to be so excited to see what has been done for them and we can’t wait!

But we didn’t stop there! Thanks to an incredibly generous donation from the Bradley and Georgann Gummow Family Foundation for \$25,000 and the Kiwanis Charities of Rockford, Inc. who also donated \$5,088, we are able to upgrade from a “warming kitchen” to a full commercial kitchen! We have given you a sneak peak below of the kitchen being gutted and will reveal the finished product in the next newsletter. Stay tuned!

When we are able to reopen, we encourage you to schedule a time to tour the facility first hand. The more the merrier! Please contact our office to schedule your tour.

