

Rock House Kids

Compassion Around the Corner

July 2020

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THE HOT LIST

We currently need:

Paper Towels



Copy Paper

8 1/2 x 11 reams



Sleeping Bags

Adult sized



Storage Bins

Clear



\$5 Gift Cards

Fast food



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*
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Bobbi Marks-Cooper
Dee Lacny, *Executive Director*

ARMS WIDE OPEN - ROCK HOUSE KIDS ARE BACK!

What a strange year we have had so far. COVID-19 brings the shutdown to the United States and Rock House Kids had to close its doors to the children in March. Then comes the senseless killing of George Floyd which prevents Rock House Kids to open on the originally planned date due to protests that turned into riots.

As I sit here writing, I ponder of all the things that are being played out in the media. No matter what "side" you are on, you can find someone to make you feel validated in your feelings. Can we please stop calling people out by their color? Do we not all have a heart, a brain, and blood that is red? Don't we all want to have peace and live together as equals?

At Rock House Kids we do not see a child walk in and say, "Oh, that is an Asian child, or that is a black child, or white, etc...." Do you know what we see? We see children of God.

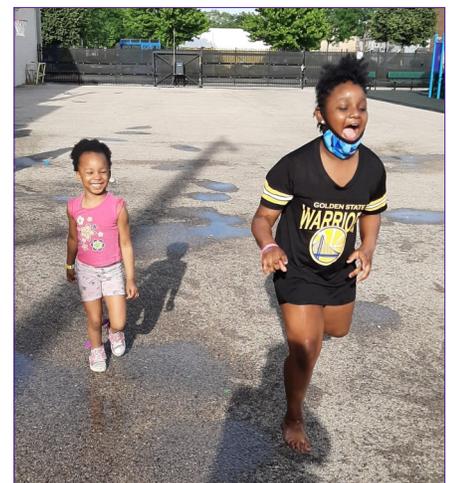
In Genesis 1:27 it states, "So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them."

Nowhere in that verse does He say, I created only white people in my image, or only black people in my image, or any other ethnicity. So what does that tell you? It tells you we are ALL special in the eyes of God. We are His creation.

It breaks my heart that any ethnicity has the feeling of being "less than". We see this so many times with the children at Rock House Kids. They feel they are not smart enough and not worthy of love. They feel the only way out is to sell drugs, join gangs, or even give themselves up to sex trafficking.

We do not want kids to feel this way. At Rock House Kids, we show them unconditional love. But I have to say, this is hard to do when the world is spreading such hate and division because of the color of a person's skin.

The good news is that Rock House Kids was finally able to open on June 8th. The numbers were extremely low, but the children that came were excited to be back. On June 9th, we opened for the teens. At first, they were noticeably quiet. Once questions were asked of them as to how they are feeling about all they have seen and heard, they lightened up. They needed to be reminded that Rock House Kids IS their safe haven. This is the place they can ask questions and not fear judgment.



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ARMS WIDE OPEN - ROCK HOUSE KIDS ARE BACK!

During the shutdown, the kids missed being able to come and feel safe. They missed their friends and the volunteers. One of the kids said, "You know what Ms. Dee? It is really Rock House. It is where we can always come, and it is our house."

The first Wednesday Rock House Kids was open, the numbers tripled from the reopening night. The word is out! Rock House Kids is open! You could hear laughter and chatter all throughout the building. The walls at Rock House Kids were alive again. The world outside our walls did not matter for those three hours. They did not have to worry about COVID-19. They did not have to worry about riots. They did not have to worry about anything. They were able to play games with the volunteers and their friends...and simply be kids.

While the numbers are increasing, it reminds me of the movie Fields of Dreams and the one infamous line, "If you build it, they will come." At Rock House Kids, the doors are open, and the kids are coming. They're returning home to their family. They are returning to their safe place in this mixed up world.

I am sending out a plea to all who are reading this today. We ask you to pray for our children and their safety. Pray for our community, state, and nation. Pray for the volunteers. Pray for the special guest speakers who are coming to talk to the children so they will have healing words for them. Pray on if you are being called to be at Rock House Kids and be a listening ear for the kids, or to play basketball and teach the children about unconditional LOVE. Pray about becoming a financial supporter. Help us continue the fight to serve the inner-city children.

Thank you to all who are already a part of Rock House Kids' family because we couldn't serve without you. We need to focus on growing in order to be able to serve more children. The inner-city children of Rockford need YOU!

Dee Lacny, Executive Director



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Stan McCord



Stan McCord came to Rock House Kids in 2007 after our founder visited Stan's church, 1st Congregational in Roscoe. It was at that time that he realized the kids had no control over the bad situations in their lives, and he knew he wanted to make a difference.

Stan's favorite verse is Malachi 3:10, "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." Stan firmly believes you will be blessed for blessing the lives of others, and he truly has a heart for giving of his time, talents, and treasures.

He is a regular volunteer on Monday nights, but also spends many Tuesdays and Thursdays at Rock House Kids during the day. He diligently fills the Kid friendly food

bags, and is always willing to do "handy man" work around "the house". We truly appreciate our Mr. Stan!

Before retirement, Stan worked at Rock Valley College for 27 years as an instructor of manufacturing technology. He enjoys reading, walking, and yoga. In years past, Stan helped with both Boy and Girl Scout Clubs, and shared his talents as a Brown Belt teaching kids Karate. He loves spending time with family most of all, which includes two daughters, one son, five grandchildren, and one great grandson.

Two of Mr. Stan's spiritual leaders are Dola Gregory for starting Rock House Kids, and Pastor Charles Sagay for starting Mission School of Hope in Cameroon, Africa. Pastor Sagay now has a church, six school buildings, and a medical clinic. They both started with small seeds of faith that have blossomed into "more than anyone could have ever hoped or imagined!"

VOLUNTEERING AT ROCK HOUSE KIDS



The world is filled with hurt people who end up hurting other people. Problems like poverty and violence exist no matter how hard we try to ignore them. Chances are, the brokenness in this world will end up touching someone you know sooner or later. While you can't fix everything, you can make an impact here at Rock House Kids. The inner-city youth are hungry for love, compassion and consistency. They are hungry for the truth of God's Word.

Ours is just one of many organizations, but you are right here, right now, reading this. Maybe this is your time to change your life by changing someone else's. Or perhaps you know someone who would be interested in volunteering at Rock House Kids so we ask you to Pay it Forward by forwarding our newsletter to the person you have in mind.

Here is what some of our volunteers have to say about their favorite part of volunteering at RHK.

Doug Palmer – "The kids! Knowing you're making a difference, and reaching the point where they trust you. We know we are there for a greater cause!"

Jim Mistry – "Playing with the kids. Seeing them smile. When they open up and share. I appreciate their honesty."

Janelle Tempel – "Baptism night. Loving on the kids. Teaching them how to be a Christian. Teaching them to believe in themselves, because God does!"

We will be hosting a Volunteer Orientation on Thursday, July 23 from 5:30-6:30 PM to learn more about volunteering at Rock House Kids and to see our facility. We hope you can join us. Please help us spread the word.

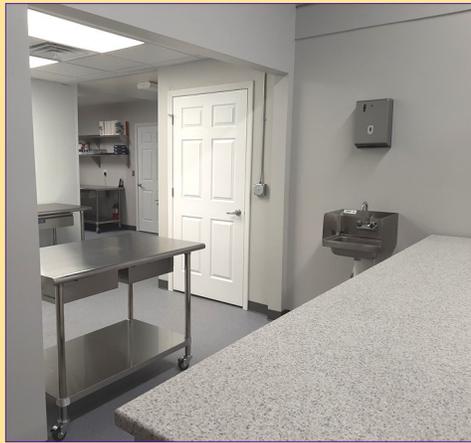
If you would like to join our volunteer family but can't make it to the orientation, we have many options to choose from to match your interests that include program volunteers, van drivers, kitchen helpers and many behind-the-scenes opportunities. If interested in learning more about RHK or to complete 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!



KITCHEN RENOVATION COMPLETED



Out with the old and in with the new. Check out the transformation! The kitchen has been in need of an update for a very long time and it finally came to fruition thanks to our very generous donors and awarded grants from the Bradley and Georgann Gummow Family Foundation - \$25,000, The Mill Foundation - \$10,736.96, and Kiwanis Charities of Rockford, Inc. - \$5,088.03. THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS AND BELLIES! It looks better than we ever could have imagined! Even with the classification of a warming kitchen, it had a “mom and pop”, dated feel, so this upgrade to a commercial-grade kitchen is refreshing and long overdue. We serve meals four nights a week to some very hungry children. We also have a lot of volunteers in the kitchen area that help serve the meals to the kids and this will make the whole meal time process easier and more efficient. If you would like to come down and see the renovation in person, don't hesitate to call for a tour or, if in the area, pop in between the hours of 9am - 3pm.



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!

