

Rock House Kids

Compassion Around the Corner

October 2020

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THE HOT LIST

We currently need:

Lotion

4 to 10 oz. size



Blankets

Full Size



Disinfecting Wipes

Any Brand



Winter Boots

Size 2 children's to size 12 adults



Hand Sanitizer

8 oz. or larger



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.

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SEASONS CHANGE...BUT GOD REMAINS THE SAME

Autumn signifies change. A change in the weather, colors, and festivals. There are smells of cinnamon, apples, and pumpkin spice in the air. There are cravings for the taste of cider, Autumn Squash Soup and Chili. In the Midwest, we go from scorching hot dry temperatures to cool damp days. We turn in our t-shirts and shorts for jeans and sweatshirts. The days are shorter, and the nights are longer. Although some change is welcomed, other change is not. Lately many of the changes are out of our control.

The same happens with the children at Rock House Kids. Many of them have been sent away to family members in different cities and states. We have seen much more movement of kids and families in the last year than normal. Some families are even split between relatives in different states.

Now that school is in session, it looks different for the kids. Some cannot go back into the classroom to be with their friends. Some can only go to school a couple of times a week and some are in school full time but many of their friends have not returned. Their structure has been shaken up dramatically.

At Rock House Kids, we view these constraints as a motivator for creativity. We have had to roll with the imposed changes yet keep an environment of consistency. Hebrews 13:8 states, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

The kids at RHK live a life of constant changes. One day they are living in a house or apartment and the next they are living in a hotel, or worse yet, in a car. One day they are in Rockford, IL and the next day they are across the country in a different state.

This is one reason we keep our programming as consistent as possible. The kids know the doors will open at 5:00 pm and a hot meal will be served to them at 5:45 pm. Then 6:30 pm is chapel time followed by time with their mentors in the classroom. When they leave for the evening, they never leave empty handed. They always have a food bag to take home.

Last month we were so excited to see a young lady walk back into Rock House Kids. Due to her family situation we have not seen her in five years. She explained how much she has missed Rock House Kids. She mentioned how being here feels like home.

At times we have been concerned with the decline in returning volunteers. Many of our volunteers are older and concerned about the COVID -19 virus. We respect their decisions to stay home. But God is good! In our times of change, He has provided so many new people who are excited and passionate about ministry and kids.

Deuteronomy 31:8 states, "The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

In this season of change, there is one thing we can be sure of that never changes. As a servant of Christ, it is always planting season at RHK. Our job of sowing seeds is not affected by the changing seasons. Unlike the four seasons we experience throughout the year, some seeds we plant may yield fruit immediately, and others we may not live to see. In obedience, we continue to serve His children in His will. Eric Liddell once said, "Obedience to God's will is the secret of spiritual knowledge and insight. It is not the willingness to know, but the willingness to DO (obey) God's will that brings certainty".

continued ►

SEASONS CHANGE...BUT GOD REMAINS THE SAME

Through all the changes we will commit to “DO” and continue to “DO” at Rock House Kids.

Philippians 4:6-8 “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.



Dee Lacny, Executive Director

JOIN US FOR A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION! RHK MURAL BLESSING AND EXPANSION KICK-OFF



We have exciting accomplishments to celebrate and BIG news to share about the future of Rock House Kids. We want YOU to be a part of it!

We have just completed our Rock House Kids mural and it is BEAUTIFUL. Many, many hours went into planning, funding and creating of the mural...The kids LOVE it! As you drive along 7th Street, you can't miss us. We have included a sneak peak but you will have to come to our unveiling party to see the rest for now!

And for the BIG news...Rock House Kids is heading into an expansion. We have been gifted the third and final part of our building which is currently empty and are prepared to move ahead with our renovation that will include the following:

- A recreational activity center to include a basketball court, a sound area, and a full projection screen.
- A library to complete our existing Computer Lab where the kids can get tutoring help, research, apply for jobs and much more.
- Four new classrooms for mentoring and will allow us to add more kids to the program.
- A lounge-type area with individual and collaborative workspace, a game room, and additional restrooms.



Please JOIN us for our outdoor
Community Celebration open to the public.

Kids, volunteers, donors, and community stakeholders are all welcome

Date: Saturday, October 17
Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm
Speakers will kick-off at 1:15
in the mural parking lot

LIVE DJ
FREE FOOD & REFRESHMENTS
GAMES & ACTIVITIES
GUIDED TOURS

**masks will be required*

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Leisa Naff



Leisa's heart was drawn to Rock House Kids in 2017, following a presentation at her church, Rockford United General Baptist, where she was already serving Rockford's children in the capacity of Sunday school teacher and Wednesday night youth leader.

She is not new to serving her community. As Deputy Director for Northwestern Illinois Area Agency on Aging, Leisa works full time for the non-for-profit providing services through grants to help the elderly and disabled.

Leisa has enjoyed many wonderful memories working with 4th through 6th graders over the years. One such scenario that stands out in her mind was when winter boots were distributed to her 5th grade girls. It was obvious that one of her students was very disenchanted with the boots she had received. Acknowledging the scowl on this girl's face, Leisa asked why she was so unhappy. "These boots are so big Miss Leisa!" the girl exclaimed. "Well", retorted Miss Leisa, "what size are your feet?" The girl replied, "Size 11". Miss Leisa stated very matter of fact, "Size 11 feet are big, but there is nothing wrong with that! My feet are big too. I wear a Size 10." Nothing more was said that night, but the

young lady went home pouting. The next week, however, the young lady returned to Rock House Kids with her winter boots on, and thanked Miss Leisa for the boots, and apologized for her behavior the week before. "I am going to wear these boots and be thankful!" the girl said proudly. Miss Leisa was blessed to reap the benefit of some of the seeds that the volunteers so lovingly plant into these little minds on a weekly basis.

As Miss Leisa says, and many volunteers can attest, you start volunteering at Rock House Kids because you want to bless the children; but you don't have to look long and hard before you are the one being blessed by them!

On a more personal note, Leisa is married to Steve Naff, the CEO of General Baptist Investment Fund, another non-for-profit that exists solely to lend money to General Baptist churches and related organizations. Together they have four children and nine grandchildren. An interesting investment that they have made is in a restaurant franchise, Lemonade House Grill; a small chain of stores in Missouri, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. They hope to retire some day in Costa Rica, a place they have never visited, but hope to soon.

In summary, Leisa loves serving. She is so glad she found Rock House Kids, and very thankful that we are here to provide for the kids. Her prayer for these children is that in the years ahead, they will look back and see they were loved and given hope; and by receiving this, they will make changes in their lives, and have the desire to make a difference in the lives of others.

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 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!

AMAZING BIKE GIVEAWAY

What a blessing it was to give away so many bikes and locks to our Rock House Kids! It was overwhelming to see the looks on the kids faces when they found out they were ALL receiving bikes instead of our usual drawing to see who gets one. Thank you to all who donated a pre-owned or brand new bike! A SHOUT OUT to Fun Gus Recycle who gives of his time, talent and treasures to collect and restore bikes.



FIELD TRIPS RESUME FOR ROCK HOUSE KIDS!



School is back in session, but unfortunately, field trips are no longer an integral part of the learning and recreational curriculum for this semester due to COVID-19 logistic constraints.

With businesses recently opening their doors back up, and more than 50% of Rockford families choosing at home e-learning, we knew we needed to give the kids more opportunity for learning and fun.

We surveyed the kids on where they wanted to go...No, Disneyland was not an option but a creative suggestion from one of the kids. Majority of the kids wanted to go skating so we made it happen. Thanks to the generosity of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, we were able to take the kids to Skateland. With masks in hand, the kids were able to get out and unwind, get physical activity, and just be kids!



For learning enrichment, we took the kids to Burpee Museum for the Cold Blood Exhibit where they were able to learn more about reptiles and amphibians. Hands on learning is a crucial part of a deeper part of comprehension. Lily, one of the Rock House Kids, said her favorite part of the field trip was being able to pet Rocky, the tortoise. However, she was disappointed she couldn't touch the snake because it hadn't eaten its lunch completely and the remainder was still in the cage. What a brave little girl!

Field trips are important for our Rock House Kids. Most of our kids have never been outside of Rockford and their families do not have the resources to provide outside life experiences. Our kids are making memories here at Rock House Kids. We want to ensure they continue to have positive opportunities available to them. We are looking into other field trips in the future such as Six Flags Great America, Escape Rooms, and Brookfield Zoo to name a few. Our field trips would not be possible without the generous support we receive from our individual donors and community as a whole.



If you would like to sponsor a field trip either partially or in full, please contact our office at 815-962-5067 to discuss your interest or ideas. We would love to hear from you!



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!