

# Rock House Kids

## Compassion Around the Corner

December 2020

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### THE HOT LIST

We currently need:

#### Clorox Wipes

Adult sized



#### Deodorant

Child-Adult



#### Hand Sanitizer

Standard size



#### Lotion

8-12 ounce



#### Masks

Disposable



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*  
Barry Kramer  
Kyna Lucas  
Bobbi Marks-Cooper  
Beth Yock  
Dee Lacny, *Executive Director*

### TRADITIONS CONTINUE AT ROCK HOUSE KIDS

#### Isaiah 9:6

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

How fitting is this Bible verse from Isaiah? 2020 has been a crazy year. We have had ups and downs, unanswered questions, violence, and much uncertainty. But Isaiah reminds us we have a Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. The government will be on HIS shoulders. I do not know about you, but this brings a sense of peace and hope. We are not alone.

As an adult I have stressed and fretted with not understanding what is going on in our world. So, can you imagine what children are feeling? They need reassurance. They need to know there is some sense of "normal" they can count on.

The children of Rock House Kids can count on us. They can count on our doors being open for them to work on their schoolwork with adults who love them and want them to succeed. They can count on a warm meal each evening they come to programming. They can count on receiving a warm blanket, coat, hats, gloves and more. Being able to count on Rock House Kids provides the children with hope.

December is especially important because there are many traditions at Rock House Kids. We are busy elves beginning in the middle of November through December.



Decorating the building is a large task. Each room turns into a beautiful winter wonderland. Volunteers come in to decorate the building and the children help by making paper snowflakes which adorn the cafeterias. The main tree at Rock House Kids is cut down by the teens at Williams Tree Farm. The teens take ownership of the tree and decorate it with lights, ornaments, and ribbon. The tree is beautiful!

Once the trees are up, the next tradition is taking classroom pictures. I love this night! There is so much laughter when the children take their silly pictures with their mentors and classmates. It warms my heart seeing the children who are very reserved come out of their shell and show us their goofy side.

Each child fills out their wish list for Christmas. Every child will receive a gift up to \$25. I wish each and every one of you could be a fly on our walls when we take down their requests. The kids get so excited! Some of them cannot believe they can even ask for a Christmas present. You see their eyes

brighten, huge smiles appear, and they start thinking hard about what they should ask for. They want to make their decision meaningful.

continued ►

## TRADITIONS CONTINUE AT ROCK HOUSE KIDS

You might be wondering how all the gifts are supplied to the children? There are a few ways. First, there are people/organizations who call and want to sponsor a child/children. Secondly, we have had people donate \$25 gift cards to Wal-Mart and we send out happy elf helpers to purchase the items. All items are dropped off by Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.

The following week Rock House Kids looks like the North Pole! Gifts EVERYWHERE. There is sorting, sorting, and MORE sorting as we make sure all the children have gifts.

Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, between 8 am – 11 am at Rock House Kids there is wrapping galore. Over 1000 gifts are wrapped for the children. If you would like to come and join the fun give the office a call (815-962-5067) and sign up to wrap. There are treats, cocoa, coffee, and of course Christmas music playing.

When all the background work is completed then come the parties! The week of December 14<sup>th</sup> we have fun, fun, and more fun planned for the kids. Finally, the kids are given their gifts. Some open all their gifts at the party...while others only open one, open and rewrap, or even save their gifts until Christmas day.

The many activities at Rock House Kids throughout the year and especially in December could not have happened without each and everyone of you. Being a part of the Rock House Kids family helps the children to have the ability to come to a place they can have stability in crazy times. A place they can come and have the security of knowing they will be loved. A place they will be able to have their bellies filled. A place where they can call home. A place they can find peace and hope.

May the peace and hope of the Lord be with you and your families through the Christmas holiday and through the upcoming year. Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year from the Rock House Kids Board of Directors and Staff.

Looking forward to serving the children of Rock House Kids together in 2021!



Dee Lacny, Executive Director



# SAVE THE DATE

## For our Annual Fundraiser

# STREETS & SWEETS



## Thursday, March 11 – 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

## Radisson Hotel and Conference Center

## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Marla Gregory



Marla Gregory has been involved with Rock House Kids since 2018 and serves as the Board Treasurer. She was first introduced to Rock House Kids when her church sponsored a kid-friendly food drive for RHK and she brought in her donations. As she learned more about RHK from Ms. Dee, she felt the desire “to serve with a Christ-centered environment that changes the direction and future for at-risk children.”

Marla is passionate about education and left her position as a Program Manager at Woodward Governor to homeschool her own children. She believes education is an important contributing factor in helping children break the cycle in order to lead a healthier and brighter future. “The children need to have their basic needs met first in order for that to happen. By helping provide the tools, we are helping to give hope.”

There is always an outpouring of love at Rock House Kids...both for the children and from the children. “When I walk into RHK, I am always overwhelmed with the unconditional love the kids have and it warms my heart. I could hug them all day long.” Marla also added she is amazed with the continued support and generosity from the community that our children have not been forgotten during this pandemic.

Marla received her degree from Judson College. She is currently the financial controller for Dixon Automatic Tool, Inc. and has been there for the last 10 years. She and her husband, Todd, have two daughters, Tara and Julia. They are also blessed with two grandsons, Brian and Harrison.

## ROCK HOUSE KIDS WINTER GIVEAWAY

Cold weather is upon us and that means the kids need to be prepared. Thanks to the generous support of our community who have brought in items individually, had items shipped, or hosted donation drives for Rock House Kids - WE THANK YOU!! During the winter months, the children receive new coats, hats/gloves, scarves, and boots they would not have otherwise if it were not for your help. The looks on their faces when they get to “shop” for brand new items is priceless and they beam with pride. They also receive pillows and blankets to help keep them warm during the cold, winter months. If you are interested in donating items or setting up your own donation drive, please reach out to us if you have any questions.



# MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ROCK HOUSE KIDS



## 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!**