Rock House Kids

Compassion Around the Corner

February 2021

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THE HOT LIST

We currently need:

Body Wash
Any brand/size

Deodorant
Any brand

Shampoo
Any brand, Ethnic or Natural products
In high demand

Conditioner
Any brand, Ethnic or Natural products
In high demand

Lotion
4 to 8 fl. oz. sizes

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.

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ROCK HOUSE KIDS GAME PLAN

Anyone who knows me, knows I am a die-hard Bears fan. I was born and raised in Berwyn, IL, which is a stones-throw away from Chicago. So, Chicago Bears is my team in the good times and the bad. Yes, I know there have been more bad times than good, but nonetheless, they are my team. They are usually considered an underdog team. Whether it is because of the coaching staff, the draft picks, poor plays in the playbook, or whatever the case may be, they still get out on the field week after week and show up to do their job.

Rock House Kids is a bit like the Chicago Bears. We are considered the underdog, working in a rough area, with kids who come from all different backgrounds, and we have many oppositions we must face. Sometimes we have wins and other times we seem to have more struggles, which can feel like losses. But no matter what, our team of volunteers, staff, partners, and donors come together and do our job to help the inner-city children of Rockford.

Our Rock House Kids' playbook has the plans to serve the area children. Sometimes our playbook needs to have pages added, or adjustments to the plays need to be made and sometimes the old plays need be tossed-out completely as they are no longer effective.

One change in our playbook has been to suspend Teen's Thursday night programming. Putting Thursday nights on hold was a hard decision to make but our hands were tied since Covid intercepted our Thursday night volunteers. The teens repeatedly ask each Tuesday night when they will be able to come two nights a week. We are thankful they are still eager to want two nights, and yet our hearts hurt that we cannot provide it for them yet. We are looking forward to the time we can tell the teens they can start coming again on Thursdays.

Another change in our playbook was regarding our "away games". We have missed our Summer/ Winter camps and the majority of our field trips this past year, so we needed to call multiple audibles. As adults, we often have difficulty when we do not have something to look forward to in the future. Imagine how a child feels when their lives are turned upside down and opportunities are taken from them and vanish.

We know how important it is to plan activities the kids can look forward to in the near future. Just last week, the teens were reminiscing about past Winter camps; their favorite memories, which one was best, how the guest speaker surprised everyone as they repelled from a hidden spot on the ceiling of the auditorium, the Polar Plunge through a hole cut in the ice of Lake Geneva, Glow-in-the-dark dodge-ball, and so much more. Constraint drives creativity, so we must find new, creative ways to bring these opportunities to them.

continued ▶

ROCK HOUSE KIDS GAME PLAN

The way we draft our players, the kids, is also going to change in 2021. We had a married couple call RHK to take a tour of the facility. When the tour ended, they asked what our greatest need was at this time. We told them another 15-passenger van so we can pick up more children who are unable to attend without transportation. They surprised us with the full $20,000 needed to ensure more children can come to RHK, have their daily needs met, and have a safe place to meet. I am happy to say we picked up our third van on January 15th! Now we need a driver to fill the seat so we can be off and running to recruit new RHK team "draft" picks from the South side of Rockford.

We have the Scouts as our remote learning tutors, Assistant Coaches to pick up players in our vans, Defensive Coordinators as evening program mentors, and our Offensive team, which are our financial supporters. We know there will be times when we experience an illegal tackle, the kicker getting roughed, or a penalty flag is missed, but that does not end the game. A dedicated team resolves to move the ball toward the goal until the last whistle is blown.

We also have our faithful cheerleaders, our volunteers, who pray for all of RHK and motivate us! And last but certainly not least, we trust God as our Team Captain. God calls the plays! We have faith He will always guide us in our decisions and will not abandon us.

> *"For the LORD will not abandon His people on account of His great name, because the LORD has been pleased to make you a people for Himself."*
>
> *1 Samuel 12:22(NASB)*

Pictured top: Our "Kids of Possibility Wall" where kids are featured each month to remind them we believe in them and they are loved.

Pictured bottom: A team wouldn't be complete without their mascot. Meet our endearing and gentle, Princess the pit bull.

We will continue to make playbook adjustments and strive to be the best team we can be. We are always looking for free agents, and walk-on players. We encourage you to come in and take a guided tour of our facility, or have one of us come speak to your group either in person or virtually. In order to carry out our mission, it requires coordination, teamwork and faith. If you would like to be a part of the RHK team, we would love to talk with you! Until then, Gooooooooo Rock House Kids!

Dee

Dee Lacny, Executive Director

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.

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Name _____

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Please mail to:
Rock House Kids
1325 7th St.
Rockford, IL 61104

Thank you!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: Kim Alexander

Kim has been with Rock House Kids for the past four years; first as a volunteer with 5th and 6th grade girls, and currently as Office Coordinator. She feels it was a calling that brought her here. Kim has a desire to serve the Lord, and at Rock House Kids there is no shortage of opportunities to serve, whether you are on staff or a volunteer. "One of the things I like most about working at RHK, is the opportunity to meet so many loving, generous people that have a heart for children."

Kim has lived in the Winnebago community her entire life. "Strong family ties are what keep me here." Growing up on a farm developed some deep core values. Strong work ethics and dependability were two things that were engrained in her. "You can take the girl off the farm, but...."

Kim and her husband Bob met twelve years ago singing in the church choir. Together they have five children, and three grandchildren. Although none of them live within close proximity, they all return home frequently for birthdays and holidays. "Time with our family is precious, and those babies grow up so fast!" Granddaughter Adeline is 13, grandson Cole is now 11, and the newest addition, Charli Rae, is 6 months.

The Alexanders attend Stonebridge Church under the pastoral leadership of Scott Nesse. "We love our church family and enjoy serving. Whatever we do, we like to do it together; serving coffee during fellowship, loving on the babies in the nursery, decorating the altar for holidays, or planting flowers in the church yard." Pre-Covid, they hosted their small group for monthly bible studies, prayer and fellowship.

Kim and Bob enjoy hosting family get-togethers, creating gourmet meals, gardening, taking walks with their Boxer dog, Brigitta, working on the never-ending renovation projects with their turn of the century home, and traveling/hiking through the mountains of North Carolina where they plan to retire.

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