

Rock House Kids

Compassion Around the Corner

January 2021

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THE HOT LIST

We currently need:

Clorox Wipes

Or generic brand



Deodorant

Any Brand



Capri Suns

Any flavors



Fruit Snacks

Individually wrapped



Juice Boxes

Any flavors



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*

2021...HERE WE COME!



With the hustle and bustle of the holidays over, what I like to do when no one is at Rock House Kids, is to walk through the building, look around and reminisce. It feels as though the walls are talking to me. I can feel the commotion in the hallways, hear the infectious laughter and yes, I can even hear the arguing. The joy of each child receiving their Christmas presents is still echoing throughout the halls.

But there was also a different feeling this time in the quiet. This time around, I was overcome with

so much thankfulness. 2020 started with high hopes for the future of Rock House Kids. 2020 had different plans.

All plans were going just as we thought and then...March happened. We had a choice to make. We could either live in fear like the world or live by faith. We could put our heads in the sand, or we could look up and out for new opportunities. As a team, we decided to grow stronger in our faith and look for opportunities. We did have to make some hard decisions. Closing our doors for six weeks was heartbreaking. What were the children going to do? How confused they must be during this unstable time? Are they safe?

Our vision at RHK is to *meet the physical, emotional, and educational needs of inner-city children by instilling hope in a safe, Christ-centered environment.*

This vision did not change just because our doors were closed. Instead of wallowing in our sadness, we decided to figure out how we could still help the children of RHK. We needed to switch gears and get creative, from upgrading the kitchen to better serve the children a hot meal when they return, to taking meals and supplies to the children. We certainly did not do this on our own. The community stepped up and continued with their donations, so we had the items to give to the children and finances to continue operations. The volunteers also stepped up and went with us on our deliveries which showed the children they were loved and missed.

When we opened our doors back up for the children in June, we had to once again be creative and make adjustments. Bringing the children back meant we had to set up COVID-19 precautions. We were able to have masks for the kids each time they came to RHK. Sanitation stations were in place, and everyone got their temperatures taken. We also spaced the children out in the cafeteria, so they remained safe while still being able to fill their bellies with a hot meal.

We were grateful to be blessed with a grant for hot meals, which in turn we have been able to bless local restaurants with our orders.

continued ►

2021...HERE WE COME!

Another opportunity we were blessed with was to complete the RHK mural AND announce our campaign for expansion. The community has been incredibly supportive of our goals. We have added many people to the RHK family. We have added government officials, organizations, and individuals who are all on the same page which is to help the inner-city children so they can have Help for Today...and Hope for Eternity.

I am looking at 2021 differently as we are making plans for the upcoming year. I am holding the reins a bit looser. There is a confidence this year as we discuss what will happen in 2021. We know as we push forward we continue to look to the Lord and see where He wants us to go. We are watching the road He wants us to travel. When we are obedient to His plans and follow His direction, the ending is ALWAYS better.

The song God is Able by Hillsong, describes how I feel when looking back on 2020 and into 2021.

God is able
He will never fail
He is almighty God
Greater than all we seek
Greater than all we ask
He has done great things

May you and your family always remember God is able. He will NEVER fail. Many blessings to you and your loved ones in 2021. Looking forward to all the Lord will do through you, our RHK family in 2021.

Dee Lacny, Executive Director

STREETS & SWEETS RESCHEDULED

STREETS & SWEETS

NEW DATE:

Thursday, September 23 - 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Radisson Hotel and Conference Center



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 _____

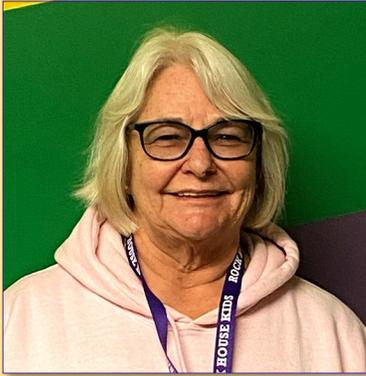
Please mail to:

Rock House Kids 1325 7th St.
Rockford, IL 61104

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Thank you!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Karen Olsen



Karen Olsen joined the Tuesday night team at Rock House Kids in 2019 as a teacher/mentor with our teen girls. She heard Dee Lacny speak at a women's retreat a few years ago, and felt the Lord leading her here. Her favorite verse from Joshua 1:9 is a constant source of comfort and encouragement.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

"Volunteering with teen girls on Tuesday night is entertaining!" Karen states. "I've learned a lot!" I want to instill in them that they are daughters of the King, and that He wants the best for them. My heart's desire is to build their self-esteem." She always

leaves Rock House Kids with a happy heart, as she knows that this is where she is supposed to be.

Karen retired from Swedish American after working as an X-ray Technician for 39 years. She enjoys volunteering at her church where she works in the nursery, and has served as Deaconess for the last several years. Karen also loves gardening and spending time up North with her family. Although she became a widow after 42 years of marriage; her son, four grandchildren, and two Bernese Mountain Dogs, Harley and Elvis keep her very busy.

If you would like to join our volunteer family, 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 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!

CHRISTMAS HIGHLIGHTS AT ROCK HOUSE KIDS



We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to all of the individuals, businesses and organizations who made Christmas a whole lot merrier for all of the Rock House Kids! It takes a lot of support monetarily and requires extra volunteers to pull off such a large event. This would not happen without community support. The house was filled with excitement and joy as we celebrated BIG! They enjoyed a delicious and festive meal, decorated cookies, sang and danced as a group and with a DJ, and played lots of fun games. The unwrapping of gifts was an incredible sight to see! The children were ALL sponsored and received items from their wish list, an overflowing stocking, and even extra gifts! In fact, this year for the first time...they all received new jammies, pillows, pillowcases and blankets. For a year that was incredibly hard on all of us, it was amazing to see the outpouring of generosity and to be able to give the kids extra! Thank you for shining the light of hope! HAPPY NEW YEAR!



A YEAR IN REVIEW

Computer Lab completed (and way under budget!)

Backpack giveaway for the new semester



Teen Baptism Night

Teens attend Winter Camp at Covenant Harbour

RHK celebrates Black History Month with numerous guest speakers



Rock House Kids had to shut it's doors on 3/14 due to Covid19

Staff organized and started painting the facility



RHK hits the streets and delivers food and essentials to the kids at home

Painting, painting and more painting!

Highbay/Playground receives power washing and the half courts get painted



Kitchen remodel begins thanks to the multiple grants received

More Painting/Updating Building



RHK Programming FINALLY reopens with a fun event night!

Hundreds and hundreds of Socks & Underwear distributed

Roof over 1401 gets major repair



8 children baptized on Baptism Night

RHK receives NEW chapel sound equipment



Backpack & Shoe giveaway

The kids get a much needed night out on their field trip to Skateland



Mural is completed!

CPI training for our 5-6th graders, teens and volunteers

Fun field trip to Burpee Museum



RHK Mural Block Party and Capital Campaign Kick-Off Celebration!

Blankets & flashlights giveaway

Kids have a blast at the Bowling Field Trip!



Winter Coat s & Blankets Giveaway

Teens visit Williams Tree Farm to cut down the tree

Praise Dance begins



Feet were kept warm at our Winter Boots Giveaway

Christmas Celebration was AMAZING!

Puppets perform for the kids and volunteers

