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WISHLIST

We currently need:

Shampoo

Any brand



Conditioner

Any brand



Body Wash

Any brand



Lotion

Any brand, 8-16oz.



Three-hole pre-punched white copy paper

Any brand



We accept donations from
9:00-3:00 Monday through Friday
OR
order through our Amazon Wishlist
page and have items shipped right
to us.

THANK YOU!

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THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well. At Rock House Kids we have been having a wonderful summer! There has been great opportunity to see growth in the kids and we get so excited when we see a child make positive strides!

In a past newsletter, I had written about a young guy who was struggling and needed some extra one on one time. Well...he did it again. One night he came into RHK and was excited. He said he told himself he was going to be a good boy when he got to RHK. I told him I knew he would be because he IS a good boy.

Later in the evening he and I were sitting together talking about his little life when he noticed my phone's screensaver. The photo was of when my husband and I were blessed to go out on Lake Michigan for a sailboat ride.

When he saw the picture he said, "Look Ms. Dee! I see Jesus in the clouds." When you look at the picture you see the sun peeking through the clouds and shining its rays down to the lake. It is a breath-taking picture to me before but now, the picture reminds me of a small child who sees Jesus. This makes the picture even more special to me!

At RHK our goal is to show the kids who Jesus is. Sometimes we're not sure whether we are making an impact. Then, it happens. We see a small glimpse of what God is doing. If RHK was not available to this little man, would he have been able to see Jesus in the clouds? I'm not so sure. What I do know is this little guy is not the same child who walked through the doors of RHK a year ago.



We are trying to show the kids there are different ways to look at situations. They may not always be as they seem. We tell them God is everywhere, we sometimes just need to look. Not only do we teach the kids, but the kids teach us as well. Sometimes we get so busy in our daily lives we miss what God is showing us. We let stresses and our own agendas get in the way. It's time to step outside and look up. Look at the beautiful sky with white puffy clouds. Stop and listen to the birds singing. Watch a bunny play and roll on his back in the dirt to cool off. There are so many blessings. It's time to see the world through a child's eyes.

Matthew 18:3 states: And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD *continued...*

In another story, there is a teen who has been with RHK since she was a Pebble (1st grader). As I am writing this article, she is waiting for her baby boy to be born. When she found out she was pregnant, she came to RHK for the evening program and handed me her ultrasound picture. She was scared, yet determined. She knew she wanted to keep the baby.

As we talked, she mentioned the many hardships she knows are coming with having a child at such a young age. But what I saw in her was determination to make a good life for her unborn child.

She continues to come to RHK and what she receives is unconditional love. Once the baby is born, she will continue to come and knows her baby will be welcomed the same way, unconditionally. This will give her a few hours a week to just be her, to kick back and relax because she knows her baby will be taken care of and loved while she is with her friends and mentors.

Her little guy is going to be able to have the unconditional love and care that she had at even a younger age. He will be a Rock House Kid from day one! One day, this little child might be able to see Jesus coming down through the clouds in His beautiful sunrays.

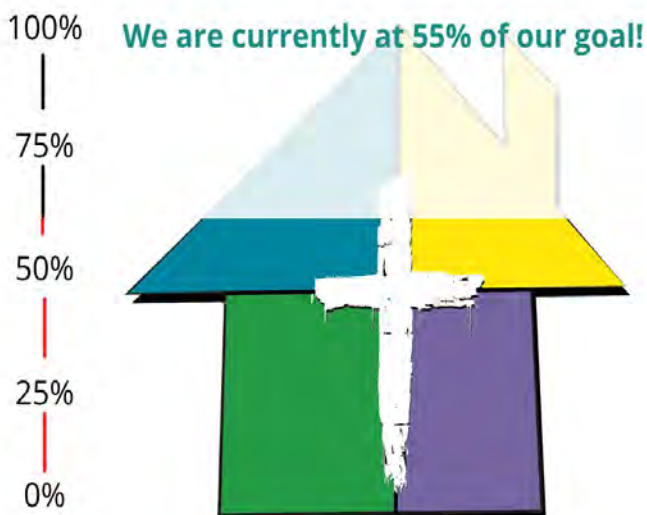
Our expansion campaign, Help for today...Hope for Eternity, which will allow us to increase our evening program to include EVERY child between the ages of 6-18, becomes even MORE of a necessity when we see how changes are being made in a child's life. How do you see God using you to achieve this goal for expansion?

Dee Lacny, Pastor and Executive Director



Creations from
Rock House Kids
imagination and perspectives

EXPANSION UPDATE



Exciting News! RHK is the recipient of a Challenge Grant from The Kjellstrom Family Foundation. What this means is for every \$2 we raise for the expansion, they will match it with another \$1, not to exceed \$25,000.00 on their end. This is such an incredible opportunity and we are so blessed!

So, if you haven't sent in your donation for the expansion just yet, now is the time! You can also visit our website to learn more about the project at rockhousekids.org or to make a donation and monitor our progress.

Guided tours are also available to see our facility, which includes the expansion area, get a first-hand experience and to learn even more about RHK. Please call the office to schedule a time that is convenient for you.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: Tanya Brown



Tanya Brown began her adventure as the Grant Coordinator for Rock House Kids in March of 2020. As much as she enjoyed grant writing, HE had another plan in mind. Tanya volunteered at nightly programming and absolutely fell in love with the kids! When the opportunity arose to apply for the Program Coordinator position, she seized the moment with open arms and an open heart. Tanya's passion has always been working with kids and she believes God has been molding her in different ways to be ready for the Program Coordinator position.

“What gets me excited the most about my position at Rock House Kids is seeing their big, beautiful smiles. I have the privilege of seeing their guard fall from the moment they walk in the door to the time they leave. A child might walk in having a bad day, or live in a rough home environment, but by the time they

leave RHK, their moods have completely shifted. Here, they get to just be a kid without having to worry about the outside world. It reminds me daily that we are doing God's work by creating a positive, loving environment for His children.”

Originally from Beloit, Wisconsin, Tanya grew up in the small town of Durand, Illinois. After graduating from Durand High School, she worked for eight years at US Cellular where she excelled in cell phone sales and quickly moved into management. She found that she needed a break from the corporate world, and wanted to move into something more personal, which led her to work as a Nanny for an incredible family with 5 children.

Tanya met Josh, in 2013 and they quickly fell head over heels for one another. After meeting Lily, Josh's daughter from his previous marriage, she knew their little family was meant to be. In 2017, Josh and Tanya were blessed with a baby boy, Silas. With two kids and two dogs (Presley and Oliver), their family unit was officially complete! They moved from Beloit, WI to Rockford, IL in 2019 to be closer to Woodward, where Josh is employed. In early 2020, Tanya felt God's calling to start looking at employment opportunities that would allow her to spread God's Word. This led her to find her passion and God's calling at Rock House Kids!

Tanya has been a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Durand, IL since the age of 5, and this continues to be her place of worship. From 8th grade until graduation, her church blessed her with the opportunity to attend Leadership Lab, a week-long Lutheran summer camp at Augustana College. She believes God gave her this opportunity to teach her the skills needed to grow spiritually and eventually serve the youth at Rock House Kids. One of Tanya's favorite Bible passages is Deuteronomy 31:6 "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.

ROCK HOUSE KIDS UPDATES AND EVENTS

RUMMAGE SALE: A special thank you to Cathy Slothower for her MANY months of continuous hard work and planning that went into hosting a THIRD Rummage Sale for RHK. The sale generated \$7,520.26! A dedicated and long term donor surprised Cathy at the sale with a \$4,000 check and she was speechless...and so were we! Thank you to everyone who made it a huge success!

CITY MARKET: Rock House Kids staff and volunteers will be on-hand to welcome everyone at the gates on Friday, August 13th starting at 3:30. Be sure to stop by to say “HI” and tell your friends to look for us. For your convenience, we will also be selling Streets & Sweets tickets at our booth.

STREETS & SWEETS: Tickets are NOW ON SALE for our annual fundraiser! After rescheduling and cancelling last year's event, we cannot wait to see everyone in person and CELEBRATE. Come join us for a night of delicious appetizers and desserts, silent auction, live performances from the RHK kids, and many other surprises! Mark your calendars for Thursday, September 23 at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center at 6:00 pm and get your tickets before they sell out!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

July was in full swing here at RHK! The kids received a live performance from the Joel Baer Quartet. They enjoyed the music and even learned more about Jazz. Promotion Night also took place, where the kids were excited to “move up” to the next grade level and meet their new mentors. For some kids, moving up means all the way to the Teens Level, and that is a BIG deal!

But the highlight of the month was the teens field trip to Medieval Times! They were so grateful and well behaved as they cheered on their night and enjoyed a delicious dinner. None of the kids had ever been so this was a very special treat. In fact, most of our kids have never been outside of Rockford or participated in activities other children are able to do on a regular basis. Their families simply do not have the resources to provide them. For instance, 75% of our Rock

House Kids have never stepped foot inside a movie theatre. Something many of us take for granted, like a trip to the movies, is considered a luxury for our kids.

Providing field trips for our Rock House Kids gives them opportunities most of them do not have access to otherwise. It is crucial for inner-city children to see and experience life outside of the crime-ridden neighborhood in which they live. Field trips are important for all children's growth and development, but even more so for inner-city children. These outings are also important for social and emotional development. They need healthy outlets to release their stress and learn important teambuilding skills.



Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 restraints, the kids were not able to participate in any regular school field trips for almost a year either. This is why at Rock House Kids, we are planning more special event field trips thanks to grant funding and donors who make this all possible! In fact, we are excited to announce our October Camp has finally been confirmed! We can't wait to resume the yearly tradition and build long lasting memories with the 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 _____

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Please mail to:
Rock House Kids
1325 7th St.
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Thank you!