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WISHLIST

We currently need:

Toothpaste

Any brand



Granola Bars

Any brand



Chapstick

Any brand



Fruit Snacks

Any brand



Cheese Filled Crackers

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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WHEN THINGS DON'T GO AS PLANNED

Disappointment. How many times do we have a plan or think a situation should play out in a certain way and it does not happen? When plans or dreams are changed, we need to learn to be flexible. When I looked up the definition of flexibility, I found it means the quality of bending easily without breaking, willingness to change or compromise. Flexibility is a word we use quite often at Rock House Kids.

We have had two field trips we had to cancel due to stormy weather. The first one we canceled was for the first through sixth graders. We were going to be having a picnic, tour of an animal farm, and playground time. However, our night looked like this...water was coming in through the back storeroom's garage door. Staff ran around the building finding every mop, wet/dry vac, and towel we could find. As soon as volunteers came, they also jumped in and grabbed what they could find to help sop up all of the water. By the time the kids came, with the water taken care of we still had to figure out what to do for 50+ disappointed kids! Disappointment led to more flexibility. Instead of looking at the negative, we looked for the opportunities.

The kids were able to have an impromptu event night. Although disappointed, they were able to laugh and have fun. They played games, had wonderful food, and won prizes! To hear the laughter of the kids made all of the scrambling worth it.

The second field trip we had to cancel this summer was taking the teens to eat at the food trucks at Sinnissippi Park. Once again, the skies decided to open up right over Rockford, IL. Once again, we had the opportunity to allow disappointment to hone our flexibility skills.

We had to think on our feet! A generous donor had given gift cards to a local restaurant and now was the time to put those to use. Next step, call the restaurant and see if they would be able to accommodate 27 people. They said absolutely! Finally, the parents needed to give their permission for their children to go to a restaurant instead of the food trucks and they all said, "YES"!

The Rock House Kids vans loaded up and off we went. The teens were excited to be out and acted like young adults. Again, there was so much genuine laughter just like when the little ones had to miss their field trip.

Many days we must think out of the box. When a child comes in at night, we must think on our feet to assess each situation as they arise. The nature of being a servant is responding to those in need, where they are, and how they need to be served.

Some of our donors also think out of the box. One donor wanted to know how the kids could have a place to be able to relax. She had done research and found a person who sets up and maintains aquariums and brought her creative idea to RHK and it came to fruition.

Our volunteers are flexible. The variety of personalities picked-up in the van each week creates new dynamics that can lead to a peaceful or chaotic environment. Driving the van is such an important part of Rock House Kids ministry and our driving volunteers are true champions. I love when I have the opportunity to drive the van and hear the excitement, conversations, and sometimes songs. You also get a chance to meet family members and parents, which helps you gain an understanding into the challenges some of our kids face.

continued ►

WHEN THINGS DON'T GO AS PLANNED *continued...*

Flexibility ~ there are those days when you are waiting for a food delivery for the evening meal, and it does not show up... It is 10 minutes to 6pm and a pop tart in the toaster is not going to cut it to feed 80 mouths that night. We have local pizza places on speed dial. A little shifting of programming, a later dinner, and it all looks like it was planned that way.

During the recent Global Leadership Summit, I was introduced to the acronym P.U.C. It stands for Pain, Uncertainty, and Chaos. Our ability to endure these three is our test of leadership. During the last two years, we have all experienced P.U.C. Without a little chaos, you only have control. There is no growth through our control. I feel that RHK is the poster child for P.U.C. *but that is a good thing.* Often, what we see as chaos is really an opportunity for us to let go and embrace God's control.

In Isaiah 55:8 (NIV) it says,
"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways."

I for one am thankful God has a better way and He is in control of His ministry and His kids. We are constantly reminded that the opposite of "unqualified" is not "qualified". The opposite of "unqualified" is "called". If you have considered volunteering your time to help the children at RHK, I encourage you not to focus on your qualifications, rather, ask yourself if you are being called.



Dee Lacny, Pastor and Executive Director

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS - RHK HAS A FISH TANK!



Rock House Kids received an extraordinary gift from a friend who wanted to do something extra-special to bless our kids. She gave them an aquarium full of beautiful fish! Our generous friend made all the arrangements for setup and monthly maintenance. She even went out and picked out a few special decorations for the tank she thought the kids would enjoy - keep an eye out for the colorful castle and treasure chest! We want to be sure and give a shout out to "Joe, the Fish Guy" at @statelineaquarium. He did an awesome job setting everything up and will be back each month to maintain it for us (for which we are extremely thankful!)

Aquariums are known for their calming effect, especially for kids, so we knew exactly where it should go - our "time out" area! This is where our adult leaders often have the best opportunities to minister. When children are having a rough night and need some time away from the other kids, this is where they go. Many times, they are just in need

of someone to listen to them and care about them. We anticipate that this tank of beautiful fish will have just the soothing effect our kids need to relax and allow our leaders to minister to their little hearts. (Maybe we should call it our "Fish Ministry!")

Our new fishy friends are already a big hit! Please join us in thanking our wonderful friend for blessing us so wonderfully! Thank you!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Kevin Seuring



Kevin came to Rock House Kids with his son, Michael, back in July of 2020. Since he started out as a van driver, we were not aware of the plethora of hidden talents that would be revealed to us as the upcoming months unfolded.

Raised on a farm in Waddams Grove, IL, Kevin is no stranger to hard work, long hours, and dedication. His love for children was nurtured by the love displayed to the foster children his parents cared for over the years.

Although he started his college career with a Theater Major and Music Minor, he soon came to realize that his heart was in cooking. Kevin transferred from Western Illinois University to Milwaukee Culinary School where he pursued his dream to become a chef. Under the wing of a “Black Hat Chef” at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee, he became the youngest certified chef with the Professional Chef’s Guild of Wisconsin. Quite an amazing accomplishment and honor!

This latest achievement opened up the door to many opportunities from San Diego to Wisconsin over the years, and eventually brought him to Rockford where he managed food service for several large businesses while simultaneously running his own restaurant, The King’s Table Café at Five Points.

Unfortunately, Covid brought an end to his career with Thermo Fisher Scientific, but opened up the door of opportunity for Kevin to begin volunteering at Rock House Kids. He now manages our kitchen, and can be seen here Monday through Wednesday prepping meals, serving, and offering his assistance wherever needed. Although he is overqualified for this job, his certification has freed up Miss Dee to not only spend more time with the kids, but also be “off campus” for speaking engagements during evening programming. Kevin has brought our kitchen up to a higher level of cleanliness, organization, and efficiency while offering his expertise in training and promoting teamwork amongst the volunteers.

Kevin says that volunteering at RHK is one of the hardest jobs he has ever had. He feels that prayer is a huge part of his ministry here; praying diligently for the staff and volunteers, and for Rock House Kids as a whole to continue to be a healthy, vibrant organization.

One of his favorite verses is 2 Tim. 1:7 “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” Kevin says that he struggles with submission, but knows that this life is not his own.....he answers to a higher power, which really takes the pressure off!

Kevin has always been involved in music ministry. He and his wife, Robin attend First Evangelical Free Church where they have served for 22 years. Kevin is involved in a men’s quartet, the chorale and praise team.

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!

EXPANSION UPDATE



Have you scheduled your tour yet to visit the Rock House Kids facility and see the upcoming expansion area in person? We encourage you to spread the word about the work being done at RHK and our future goals to double our impact and reach more inner city kids!

You can also purchase a tile as part of the expansion goal! Small tiles are available for \$100.00 and large tiles are available for \$200.00. Honor a friend or family member with the purchase of a tile or advertise your business. The tiles will be placed on the walls of the expansion area once it is completed. For more information on how to purchase a tile, call the office at 815-962-0567.

CELEBRATING STREETS & SWEETS



Our annual fundraiser, Streets & Sweets, was a SOLD OUT success! We were overwhelmed with the turnout and blessed by all of the love and support we received!

From delicious desserts and appetizers, amazing silent auction items, and the dedicated RHK team performances, it was a magical night.

We had two very unique things happen at this year's event. We were able to premier a special video produced for Rock House Kids to help raise awareness about what goes on behind our doors at RHK from all different perspectives. We look forward to sharing the videos to all of you in the near future.

The other highlight was an unexpected \$25,000 Matching Donation Challenge from an anonymous donor. This challenge started in the morning and continued all the way to midnight. We are excited to announce we were able to match the challenge and double our money thanks to the generous supporters both at the event and to those who supported us from home!

Thank you to all who worked behind the scenes, sponsored the event, donated, and attended to support Rock House Kids mission and the goals we have planned for the future of RHK!

We could not do this alone! Streets & Sweets 2021 was a testament to what an amazing community we have here in Rockford, Illinois. People who want to see our kids have a better and brighter future! THANK 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 _____

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

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