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WISHLIST

We currently need:

Shampoo

Any brand, 8-16oz.



Conditioner

Any brand, 8-16oz.



Fruit Cups

Any brand



Fruit Snacks

Any brand



\$5 Gift Cards

Wal-mart or fast food



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!

Board of Directors

Mark Morris, *President*
Barry Kramer, *Vice President*
Beth Yock, *Secretary*
Marla Gregory, *Treasurer*
Matt Hevrin
Kyna Lucas
Bobbi Marks-Cooper
Bob Mellon
Dee Lacny, *Executive Director*

SAFETY AND STABILITY ~ A FOUNDATION AT RHK

Where did the summer go? It seems time moves faster and faster as each year passes.

The kids are gearing up to go back to school and most of them have not stepped foot into a school building for about a year. Some of the kids are excited to go back and resume some normalcy while others are very apprehensive. They are scared the schools will shut down again and they will have to try and adjust to online learning once again.

As I was talking with some of our teens, they admitted they did not learn anything last year through online. They did not keep up with their schoolwork and are scared they are too far behind now. This is an overwhelming feeling because many of our kids were already struggling academically and now more pressure is added to catch up.

One teen girl confided in me and said she doesn't even like to be around people anymore and has turned into a loner and isolates. This breaks my heart because I could see her spirit has been broken. I told her how excited WE are to have her back at Rock House Kids and that she was missed terribly! She told me she is not sure how often she will come because it makes her uncomfortable to be around everyone and it is difficult for her to get comfortable. Another teen said he feels like he has been left alone and has no one to have his back when he is not at RHK.

One of our teen girls had the opposite reaction. She said she cannot wait to be around people again. She was feeling so alone and depressed because she could not see her friends every day at school. Another teen said he was grateful RHK has been open so he is able to be with his "family" because when he is not at RHK, he feels alone.

Our next generation is suffering. Suffering because of no fault of their own. Now is the time to stand up for our kids! Stand up to help them navigate through all they have gone

through this past year and a half. They need adults in their life to show them they are NOT alone and let them know it is okay to be confused and not understand.

With that said, we need more people to join the RHK family to come alongside our kids. These are just a few of the kids who have spoken out about their feelings but how many more have not said anything? This makes me think of our little ones. They may not understand why they are feeling what they are feeling. They may not know how to express what they are feeling. All they know is they feel scared, frustrated, and know things are not as they once were.



SAFETY AND STABILITY ~ A FOUNDATION AT RHK *continued...*

At RHK's we try to keep things as "normal" as possible for the kids. Doors open at 5:00pm. Dinner is at 5:45pm. Chapel is at 6:30 pm. Class time is 7:00pm - 8:00pm. Food bags are handed out at 8:00pm. Night after night, this is our routine.

Kids find safety in the routine and consistency. Kids find safety in knowing their teacher will be there every week for them. They find safety in knowing they can have a ride from the West side if they call in. They find safety knowing the same people are picking them up week after week.

Are you the next person who can be a constant in a child's life? We need van drivers so we can pick up even more children who need to have a place to come for stability.

Are you the next mentor who can help build self-worth in a child and show them the love of Christ? As we are working to raise support for the expansion, we also need raise awareness for the need for more volunteers. The expansion will allow us to be able to welcome EVERY age group, EVERY night of programming. This means we will need an additional eighty-five volunteers per week so the children/teens will be able to have the support they need from a caring and loving adult. Along with additional volunteers, RHK will also need additional food providers.

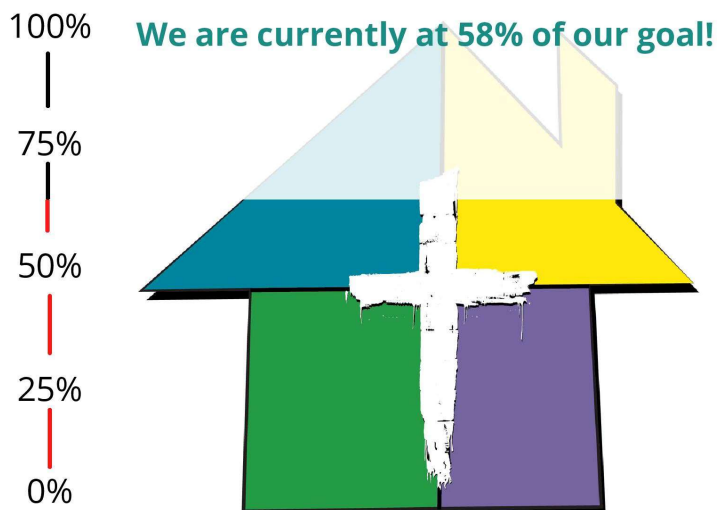
Sometimes the needs feel too big. Sometimes it feels as though we are not making a difference and discouragement comes. But I choose to stand on Galatians 6:9 where it states: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for the proper time we will reap a harvest if we DO NOT GIVE UP."

If you are getting a heart tug to help in the fight to bring "normalcy" to a child... to be the next volunteer to join the RHK family to fight the good fight so the harvest can be reaped, give our office a call Monday-Friday at 815-962-5057 between 9:00am - 3:00pm to learn more.

Dee Lacny, Pastor and Executive Director



EXPANSION UPDATE



Thank you to all who have recently donated to our Expansion Campaign, ***Help for Today...Hope for Eternity!*** If you would like a personal tour of our RHK facility and see the expansion area firsthand, we would love to show you around! Please call the office to schedule a tour.
815-962-0567

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Elizabeth Yock



Board Member, Elizabeth (Beth) Yock joined the RHK Board of Directors in November of 2020 and currently serves as the Secretary.

Beth is a former RPS205 graduate who went on to study locally at Rockford College where she doubled majored in Business and Human Relations and minored in Human Development. She is currently a Vice President/Senior HR Business Partner at BMO Harris Bank where she enjoys working with people and project management.

For over 30 years, Beth worked down the road from RHK, and would see the kids walking by and decided she wanted to be a bigger “part of the solution”. As a former youth group leader, she

has always enjoyed working with kids and at one time even contemplated being a teacher. She originally came to RHK and was training as a mentor with the 5/6 grade girls and eager to introduce kids to Christ. It was extremely eye-opening for her as she witnessed the struggles, the honesty, and at times it was a little overwhelming at first. Then one night, there was a young girl who was visibly upset. As she was getting ready to approach her, she thought to herself “Will she be guarded? Will she want to open up?” As Beth got closer, the young girl, with tears in her eyes, looked up at her and asked “Will you pray for me?” Then another one of her young friends joined in to pray. She was blown away at how they opened up their hearts to her. Then Covid hit. She felt called to continue her work at RHK in a different form during the pandemic and eventually joined the board.

Beth’s believes in Rock House Kids mission and the importance of introducing the kids to Christ. She believes helping the kids get their needs met is crucial part of our mission and we must be flexible in our approach in order to reach the kids we serve.

Beth has also served on the board for Haven’s Network and Big Brothers/Big Sisters. She has also enjoyed volunteering for Special Olympics, Carpenter’s Place and the Rockford Rescue Mission to name a few. She is a member of Stonebridge Church and in her free time, she enjoys outdoor activities, particularly snow-shoeing and hiking. She also loves to cook and read.

STREETS & SWEETS

Streets & Sweets
Annual Fundraiser 2021



Please plan to join us for our annual event
benefiting the inner-city children of

Rock House Kids

Thursday, September 23 at 6 p.m.

Radisson Hotel & Conference Center
200 South Bell School Road, Rockford, Illinois

- Delicious Appetizers
- Decadent Desserts
- Live Performances
- Silent Auction & Raffle

\$50 per person
Seating is reserved and limited.
Deadline to purchase tickets -
Sept. 3, 2021.

Our annual fundraiser is quickly approaching and we still have tickets available! Get yours before they are gone! It is going to be a fun filled night you won't want to miss! You can call the office at 815-962-0567 to reserve tickets, send back the newsletter insert with payment, or purchase them on our website at rockhousekids.org

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



As summer comes to a close, we like to celebrate BIG here at RHK! We were blessed to have Life Church come alongside us and sponsor a jam packed outdoor event filled with a blow up obstacle course, a bouncy house, games, cotton candy, snow cones, games and even prizes. It was a mini-fair behind the gates of RHK made special just for them! One of our young boys was so excited and said "This was the best night of my life!" Thank you, Life Church!



We also got creative one scorching evening and celebrated summer with our very own water night. Unique water games made with every day, household items were a big hit. The laughter and smiles were absolutely infectious!



As August came to a close and the kids got ready to head back to school, we were able to supply them all with backpacks filled with the needed school supplies. They also received a pair of brand new shoes! There were many grateful and happy faces as they all had to take turns shopping for the right pair! Thank you to all who made this possible so our kids are now better equipped and more confident for their first day of school!



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!

