



Compassion Around the Corner

December 2021

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WISHLIST

We currently need:

Christmas Candy

Individually wrapped



Paper Towels

Any brand



\$5 Gift Cards

McDonald's & Subway



Cheese Filled Crackers

Any brand



Girls/Boys Winter Boots

Little girls sizes 3-7

Girls sizes: 9-12

Little Boys sizes 1-4, 13

Boys sizes: 6-9



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.

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*

Christmas Is Not About Us!

Wow, December! Where has this year gone? Feels like it was just January and now, a blink of an eye, we are here in December.

Christmas is one of the busiest times at Rock House Kids with all of the planning, decorating, wrapping, and so much more.

It can either bring the best or worst out of people. Shopping, baking, and having family get-togethers for the holidays - all the preparations can get stressful. It feels as though there is not enough time in a day to get all the needs done.

Don't get me wrong, I love the hustle and bustle of Christmas - seeing family, eating foods we normally don't eat during the year, and seeing the faces on people as they open their gifts. However, we sometimes can lose focus on the reason for Christmas. Let us not let the details, the glitz, and the glam overtake us. Instead, remember the true meaning of Christmas and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Galatians 4:4-5 reminds us of the greatest gift a person can receive.

"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons." ESV

Do you ever really, I mean really, think about the sacrifice God made by sending His son into the world for us? What about Mary? Seeing her son on the cross so that He may open the way to God for us. Wow, how selfless!

We teach selflessness at Rock House Kids. During the year, we have the children focus

on others by writing thank you notes, drawing pictures, and celebrating others.



With our teens, we started a new tradition last year. They each received a \$25 gift card, and we went shopping. They were able to purchase a Christmas gift for someone, but there was a catch! The gifts purchased had to be for someone NOT at Rock House Kids.

continued ►

Christmas Is Not About Us! *continued...*

Once we arrived at the store, the kids were able to go off shopping with their mentor. Each mentor had a few kids to take throughout the store. Once they started shopping their attitudes changed. Each teen wanted to see how they could stretch their gift card so they would be able to buy more than one gift. Items purchased were for nieces, moms, grannies, sisters, brothers, and more. The kids were so excited to show each other all they purchased!

When we returned to Rock House Kids, it looked like Santa's workshop! They laughed as they were wrapping their gifts and drinking hot cocoa.

The kids learned what it feels like to give rather than receive. This experience would not have happened without the generous donations from the community. "Thank you" does not seem to truly express my gratitude. *Jesus stated in Matthew 25:40, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."* Thank you for giving to the Lord. Your generosity is changing lives.

This holiday season let's think out of the box. Who can we invite to Christmas dinner? Where can we serve over the holidays? What blessings can we be a part of? The opportunities are endless!

May you and your loved ones have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy New Year!

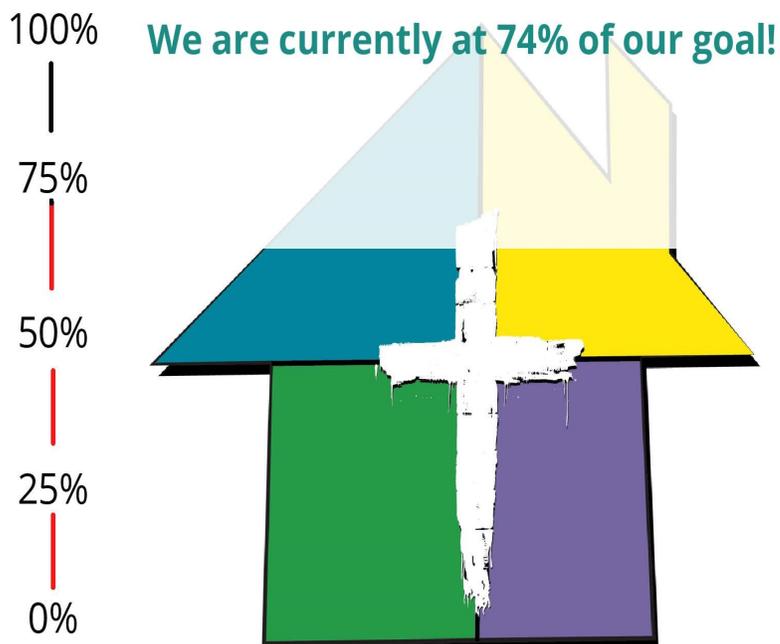
Blessings,



Dee Lacny, Pastor and Executive Director



EXPANSION UPDATE



26% NEEDED TO REACH OUR GOAL!

We can see the light at the end of the tunnel!

With Christmas around the corner, what a great time to purchase a tile to pledge a gift in honor of a family member or loved one!

4 x 8 tiles can be purchased for \$100.00 and 8 x 8 tiles for \$200.00 with a personalized message. Tiles will be a permanent part of our expansion area once it is completed.

Please call Nicole Bergren at 815-962-0567 x 111 for more information or to purchase a tile in time for Christmas.

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Bob Mellon



Pastor Bob Mellon joined the RHK Board of Directors in February of 2021 and we love the passion he brings to Rock House Kids! One day he was driving to Swedish American Hospital and needed to take a drive to pray. As he drove around, his heart broke for the area. He saw the sign out front and the Lord drove him into our parking lot. With no appointment, he rang the bell and met with Dee wanting to know more about what was behind our doors.

Jesus was relational much like Rock House Kids is relational, according to Pastor Mellon. RHK is “an oasis in the desert where kids can get “refreshed” and an opportunity for God to show who he is in a real way. If it’s one life we change, that’s all that matters.”

He is excited about strengthening the infrastructure within RHK as we embark on our expansion and continue our mission and vision. “Investing into volunteers is key, along with building partners within the community”,

Pastor Mellon is originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where he attended Bloomsburg University and had a change of course by enlisting in the Air Force and become a member of the Special Ops Unit. While enlisted he also obtained his bachelor’s degree in theology from Cathedral Bible College in South Carolina. He eventually enrolled in an online opportunity at Andersonville University in Indiana where he received his Master’s of Theology.

Pastor Mellon has been the Lead Pastor of Monroe Center Community Church for the past 20 years. He and his wife Judy have four children (Mandi, Nicole, Liz, and Bobby), and 12 grandchildren (Donell, Madison, Manny, Ryleigh, Josiah, Elliana, Trinity, Abram (Deceased), Trey, Roman, Ty and Luca). He is a Stillman Valley High School Girls’ Basketball and Softball Coach. Pastor Mellon enjoys music, sports, and most of all, spending time with his family. His desire is to see the Body of Christ grow into the image of Christ. Pastor Mellon has been in the ministry for more than 30 years and has pastored in South Carolina, New Jersey and even South Korea.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ROCK HOUSE KIDS

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS WRAPPING PARTY

Want to have some fun and bless some great kids at the same time? Gather a few friends and come to Rock House Kids for our wrapping party! We would love for you to join us as we wrap LOTS of gifts and fill stockings for the kids. There will be plenty of Christmas music, goodies and refreshments on hand for everyone to enjoy, too!

Date: Saturday, December 18

Time: 8am - 11am

Please RSVP to Kim Alexander at 815-962-0567 to reserve your volunteer spot.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

With the Christmas and New Year Holidays coming up, we want to make you aware of some changes for our office and evening program schedule.

Thursday, December 23: Office closes at 11 AM.

Friday, December 24, 27: Office closed

Monday, December 27: Office Closed

Friday, December 31: Office Closed

December 23 - January 2: Evening Program Closed

We will resume regular office hours and programming on Monday, January 3, 2022.

Have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

RHK EVENING PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

November 13 officially kicked off the Christmas season here at Rock House Kids!

Our teens gathered in the morning and headed out to Williams Tree Farm to pick out the perfect tree. After agreeing on which was the one they wanted, they went to work cutting it down and brought it back to RHK to set it up and decorate it just right. All this while singing along with their favorite Christmas songs and enjoying their favorite holiday goodies

While they were busy decorating at RHK, another group gathered at Kegel's Bicycle Store. They hopped on their bikes and made their way to Rock House Kids. Each year they collect kid-friendly food items and gift wrapping supplies and deliver them to RHK as part of their annual Bike Run. The group arrived with a big load of donations for our kids, just in time to join our teens for a pizza lunch and enjoy their newly decorated Christmas tree together! A big thank you to all the crew at Kegel's for your generous support and making a fun day even better!

After the Kegel's group left, our teens decided to help out and finished "decking the halls" through the rest of the building. By the time they were done, everything was looking A LOT like Christmas! Just the thing to put anyone in a festive mood! Great job, you guys!!



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!