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## WISHLIST

We currently need:

### Water-proof Gloves

Any brand, children  
to adult sizes



### Girls/Boys Underwear

Girls sizes: 5-7, & 14  
Boys sizes: 12-14



### Stocking Hats

Any brand



### Toothpaste

Any brand, travel  
and regular size



### Cheese Filled Crackers

Any brand



We accept donations from  
9:00-3:00 Monday through Friday

[QR](#)

order through our Amazon Wishlist  
page and have items shipped right  
to us.

## BEING THANKFUL IS MORE THAN A SEASON



November is traditionally thought of as the month to give thanks. But why do we need a specific month to remind us to be thankful?

Every day at Rock House Kids there are many reasons to be thankful. We have a praise jar in our conference room where we individually write down the blessings for which we are thankful. The jar is filling up and at the end of the year we open the jar as a team and read all the blessings one by one. We also have a praise board for the month where we write down our blessings and every person who

meets in the conference room is reminded of what God is doing.

Each evening when the hot meals come through the door, we are thankful to know the kids will have a hot meal to fill their bellies and thankful for those who helped provide the meals.

Each donation that comes through the doors shows us how much the community loves and cares about the kids at RHK. They want to make sure they have hats, gloves, blankets, and food for the kid-friendly food bags they take home with them each night.

In September, we held our annual Streets & Sweets fundraiser. We were humbled by the outpouring of support from the community. We were thankful for every person who came to learn more about our mission and vision at RHK, support the children as they performed, and help us to continue to move forward to reach the expansion goal. This will enable more children to have a safe place to call their own.

When the mail is delivered, we are thankful for the numerous monetary donations that come in from caring people. 2 Corinthians 9:11 sums this up which says, "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."

We are thankful for the children at RHK who God entrusted us to love and nurture, and when a kid walks through the door whom we have not seen for a while, we are thankful. Just this past month there was a young lady who came back to RHK who we have not seen for quite some time. I thought of her often and I did not know where she was living anymore. Her family life was less than desirable and she had been beaten by someone in the household. So, not knowing where she was or how she was doing weighed heavily on my mind and heart.

continued ►

## 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*

## BEING THANKFUL IS MORE THAN A SEASON *continued...*

As I saw her walk in, my heart jumped with joy! She has grown so much and is now a beautiful young lady. Her smile lit up the room! We are so thankful she is back at RHK.

One of the ideas we want to get across to the kids is: RHK is a safe place where they can feel free. A place they can ask any questions knowing they have people who love and care for them unconditionally.

In our teen group, there was a group of four teens who wanted to do something special over a weekend. So, my husband and I took them bowling, ordered pizza, and made s'mores. While the kids were making their s'mores, questions were asked. Deep questions which continued through texting later that evening when the kids were at their homes.

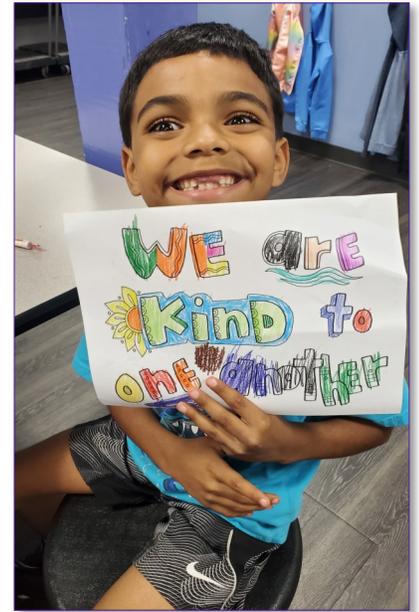
We are thankful we have dedicated volunteers who take extra time to spend with the kids. We have volunteers who will go to activities and sports games to cheer on the kids. There have also been volunteers who have taken kids out to dinner, shopping, movies, and so much more!

I want to thank each person who is reading this newsletter. Each one of you has a heart for kids whether you are a financial donor, an in-kind donation supporter, a prayer partner, or simply spreading the word about RHK. We could not do what we do without you! We need your partnership to continue serving the kids of Rockford. With your support, we can ensure hundreds of children a month are provided a safe environment to come and receive a nutritious meal, daily necessities, and most of all, love.

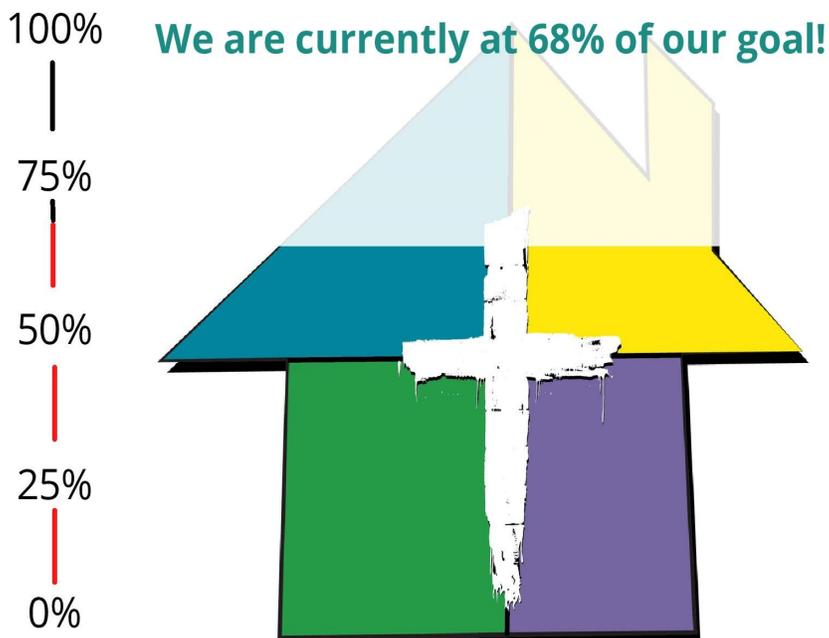
We at RHK are thankful for YOU!



Dee Lacny, Pastor and Executive Director



## EXPANSION UPDATE



We are getting closer! 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.

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: **Melanie Derr**



Melanie grew up in Freeport, Illinois. As a child of 5 years old, she placed her faith in Christ and ask Him to be her Savior during a Vacation Bible School. That year, she received a Children's Bible Story book for Christmas and remembers gathering neighborhood kids together so she could read it to them because she wanted to be a missionary! Although her parents did not attend church, she was able to get a ride through her church's bus ministry and remained a "bus kid" all through high school. Although, by then, she was serving as a helper with the younger kids.

Blessed to have some amazing mentors in her church who disciplined her, Melanie's heart for Missions grew. The desire to teach and mentor children & teens in the same way others had done for her also grew. She started teaching in her church's children's ministry when she was in Jr. high and has continued to serve in youth and children's ministry in some form from that point forward (both as a volunteer and vocationally).

Melanie attended Faith Baptist Bible College in their Missions program with an emphasis on Christian Education and Youth Counseling. Although her plan was to move overseas as a Missionary, God had other plans. Instead, she moved to Rockford in 1994 and has called this home ever since. She attends Stonebridge Church and is active in their music, prayer and children's ministries.

She has traveled on 60+ trips to 14 different countries for children's outreach and to equip & encourage children's ministry leaders. She is especially drawn to Latin America where the people of Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala hold a special place in her heart. Over the past 20+ years, she has served full-time in church/non-profit ministries and is excited to see how God can use her experience here at Rock House Kids! Melanie came to RHK in March 2021 and is serving as our Assistant Development Coordinator. She has a passion to share how God is working at RHK and uses her creative skills to do just that through our social media platforms, emails, marketing projects and writing requests for various grant funding proposals.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT ROCK HOUSE KIDS

### **OPEN HOUSE ~ VISION TOUR**

We invite you to take a tour of our facility hosted by our Executive Director, Dee Lacny, as she uncovers our vision to expand the RHK facility in 2022 to serve more of our youth and keep them safe. Light appetizers will be provided by Little Nick's BBQ.

***Date: Thursday, November 18***

***Time: 4pm - 6pm***

***RSVP online at [Support.RockHouseKids.org](https://Support.RockHouseKids.org) or call our office at 815-962-0567***

### **ANNUAL CHRISTMAS WRAPPING PARTY**

You want to see Christmas in ACTION?! Come to Rock House Kids for our wrapping party! If you have an hour or two to spare, we would love for you to join us as we wrap many, many gifts and put together stockings for the kids. We will have goodies and refreshments on hand for everyone to enjoy!

***Date: Saturday, November 18***

***Time: 8am - 11am***

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

# RHK EVENING PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

As we reflect on being thankful, there is so much to be grateful for each night of programming.

This month, our teens have had the opportunity to go down the street and workout out at Midtown Fitness. The girls go on Tuesday evenings and the guys on Thursdays. The gym's owner, Keith, takes them through a full workout program and teaches them about the importance & benefits of exercising your body. It is not only good for physical fitness, but is a great stress reliever as well. He works them hard, but the kids love it!

We love to take our kids on field trips! Everyone benefits from getting out, trying new experiences and learning something new. Recently, we were able to take our elementary kids out to the Klehm Arboretum and Botanic Garden. They had so much fun exploring the Nancy Olson Children's Garden and playing in the water! Outings like this are only possible because of generous gifts of support and we are incredibly thankful!

The kids also participated with other partnerships such as the RVC Tech Bus and the Rockford University Nurses visited and had activities related to first aid and hygiene.

Behind the scenes, Ms. Dee held a CPI (Crisis Prevention and Intervention) Training for our volunteers which is designed to teach best practices for managing difficult situations and disruptive behaviors. The teens helped in the Backpack Giveaway Service Project, where they worked as a team to organize and stuff backpacks.

The children were blessed with numerous giveaways this month which included uniforms, socks, food, hand soap/ lotion, sanitation necessities, and books! As we gear up for our busy holiday season, we encourage you to call the office to see how you can help!



## 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!*

