



April 2023



# Compassion Around the Corner

Monthly Newsletter

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### Our Mission

Sharing God's love with inner-city children through Biblical principles, with physical and spiritual solutions.

### Our Vision

To meet the physical, emotional, and educational needs of inner-city children by instilling hope in a safe, Christ-centered environment.

### Our Motto

Help for **TODAY**,  
Hope for **ETERNITY!**

### Contact Us:

**Rock House Kids**  
1325 7th Street  
Rockford, IL 61104

**Phone:** 815-962-5067

**Email:** [Info@rockhousekids.org](mailto:Info@rockhousekids.org)

**Web:** [rockhousekids.org](http://rockhousekids.org)

### Office Hours:

M-F 9 AM-3 PM

### Program Hours:

M-Th 5 PM-8 PM

### Board of Directors

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

## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...

Easter is in April this year. When better to discuss restoration than at Easter time? The definition of restoration is “the action of returning something to a former owner, place, or condition.” Restoration can also be “making something new again or better than their current state.”

When a child acts out at RHK, we understand that an underlying situation is causing the behavior. Sometimes, we can put a hand on their shoulder and give them a look that the behavior needs to stop. Other times, we have them go to a timeout area where an adult will be with them. During this time, the child might be screaming, yelling, trying to walk away, banging their head, etc. Once the child calms down, there is always a restoration process. The hope is that the child never feels like they are considered a “bad” kid. The kids are shown patience and love.

One of our 6th-grade mentors recently had trouble with one of the girls in her class. This young lady and her mentor had always had a very good relationship. She always wanted to be with her mentor and followed her around. The relationship was building. Then, on this particular evening, the winds changed.

The young lady acted out. She would not listen to instructions and kept leaving the group. The mentor went to her and tried guiding her back to the group - then it happened. The young lady threw craft supplies all over the floor and refused to do anything she was asked. The mentor needed help. So, our staff stepped in to help. One person went with the young lady, and another with the mentor. The mentor said she did not understand. She did nothing different with the girl than she had done in the past, but this time, the girl flipped. This was the first time this had ever happened to the mentor, and she felt awful. She thought they had a good relationship. In reality, they do. That evening the young lady was dealing with outside factors that she did not know how to express.

*Continued on pg 2 >*



## RESTORATION continued...

We could have kept the two apart for the rest of the evening and then circled back another day, but restoration is such an important part of building trust and relationships. We made sure the two sat down together with a staff member. They talked it out, and a stronger bond formed between them. There were fist bumps, hugs, and smiles. They were inseparable the rest of the evening.

At RHK, we have volunteers go through Crisis Prevention Intervention classes. The last portion of the class speaks about restoring the relationship. Isn't that what Jesus does for us? We may be angry and lashing out, but the Lord never leaves us. He waits and longs to restore us. Throughout the Bible, we see how God restored relationships. Think about the Israelites and all their complaining. God did not disown them. He continued to restore the relationship and show unconditional love.

Psalms 71:20 says, "Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter, you will restore my life again; from the depths of the earth, you will again bring me up."

Acts 3:19 says, "Repent, then, and turn to God, so your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord."

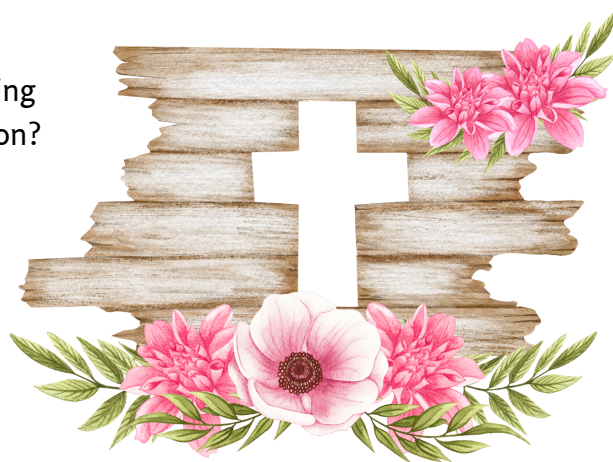
Jesus is our example and our hope to bring the kids at RHK to saving faith in Christ. How can we not strive for relationships of restoration?

I pray that you and yours have a blessed Easter.

Blessings.



Executive Director, Rock House Kids



## BOWL FOR ROCK HOUSE KIDS!

Yes! It's that time of year again. It's time for our annual Rock N Bowl Fundraiser! We invite you to join us on May 6, 2023 at Park Lanes Bowl. Enjoy a great evening of friendly competition, raffles, a pasta dinner, and plenty of fun & laughter. Find a partner and register your team to bowl, or just sign-up for dinner and help cheer on the teams. The best part? It all goes to help our kids at RHK.

Enjoy a 50/50 Raffle, Raffle Baskets, Great Food, and Tons of Fun!

### Cost:

\$40 per two-person team - Bowling & Buffet OR \$10 per non-bowler - Buffet Only

### Includes:

3 Games, 9-Pin No Tap Scotch Doubles, All-You-Can-Eat Pasta Buffet, Shoe Rental

**Deadline to Register: May 2, 2023**

### Sponsor a Lane:

- > 32 Lane Sponsorships available
- > Great advertising exposure - Sponsor signs will hang for two weeks, including during the event, to be seen by more than 3,000 patrons, and the sponsor's name will be announced throughout the event.

Two options - \$150 Color sign w/logo or \$100 Text Sign with four lines

For Sponsorship info or Sponsorship sign up - Contact Melissa Campbell at 815-962-5067

**RHK**  
ROCK HOUSE KIDS  
**ROCK N BOWL**  
Fundraiser



**REGISTER FOR ROCK N BOWL**

**SCAN ME!**



**YOU CAN ALSO**  
TEXT "RNB" TO 815-240-8881  
OR REGISTER ONLINE  
@ROCKHOUSEKIDS.ORG

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

At RHK, our volunteers are vital to our ministry. We have been blessed with some of the absolute best.

Our Program volunteers commit to being there every week, building relationships with the kids and making sure we are meeting their needs. They do an amazing job!

The problem? We need more.

More volunteers just like them in every area.

More mentors to come alongside the kids to encourage them to set goals and challenge them to reach those goals.

More van drivers to make it possible for more kids to be able to participate.

Our greatest need? *More godly men.* Men to serve as role models for the boys. Men who are able to teach.

Currently, we have had to shut down our Thursday Teen Program because we have NO male leaders for that night.

Thankfully, some wonderful women have come forward with a desire to mentor the teen girls on Thursdays, but we also need MEN.

Have you thought about volunteering, but can't decide? Do you know someone with a heart for children? Do you have questions but are not sure who to ask?

Come to our Volunteer Open House on April 29. Ask questions. See where it all takes place. Check us out and find out if RHK is right for you.



# Volunteer Open House

Rock House Kids is in need of New Volunteers

**Come join us! Take a tour and see how God can use you to make a difference in the lives of Rockford's inner-city kids.**

**Location:** 1325 7th Street, Rockford, IL 61104

**April 29, 2023 9-11:30 AM**

Learn more about  
Volunteering at RHK

kathy@rockfordhousekids.org  
815-962-5067  
rockhousekids.org



Talk with current volunteers and find out what keeps them coming back.

Refreshments Provided



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - KIRSHNA SEURING

Meet Kirshna Seuring and her husband, Michael.

Kirshna (or "Miss K", as the kids know her) first came to RHK back in 2021, shortly after she started dating Michael. Michael and his father, Kevin, had been volunteering with our Pebbles (1st and 2nd graders) for several months. He talked so passionately about how much he loved being a part of the ministry at RHK, Kirshna knew she had to join him. She was "hooked" the first night she came.

Kirshna and Michael were married last summer and continue to be committed to serving the children at Rock House Kids together. She says the best part of the night is having one of the children run up to hug her as soon as she walks into the room. Also, she loves being able to help kids who is having a rough day work through it, just because they have someone there to love them through it. "The kids need us. They need the consistency of having us there. That's why we keep coming back."

A high school Spanish teacher, Kirshna is excited to use her passion for teaching at RHK. Along with helping teach the Pebbles group, she recently joined the rotation as a Bible Lesson Station leader for the 3rd-6th grade children.

As a member of our new Volunteer Advisory Board, she can use her insight as a teacher to offer advice and suggestions to help other volunteers succeed and make our program even better.

For those on the fence about becoming a volunteer, she says "It is important to get out and just try it. You never know, you may have just the skills needed and not know it. Then share the opportunity with others, so they don't miss a great chance to serve."





## WELCOME, NEW RHK VOLUNTEERS!

Walter Scott	Matt Giebel
Judy Oehmsen	Veronica Lares
Emily Reid	Vickie Kieffer
Dave Kieffer	Andrea Cossey
Mandi Wojciechowski	
Sarah Smith	Alex Avina
Joyce Poska	Pat Nudera

### Next Stop:



# Portillo's



Do you smell Italian beef? Are you hungry for a Chicago-style hot dog, or maybe a chocolate cake shake? Our next stop on the Bigs Eats Tour is for you - **Portillo's** on East State St!

Join us on **April 27, 2023 from 5-8 PM**. RHK will receive 20% of fundraiser sales. Just mention this fundraiser if you eat in.

Using the code **PORTILLOS36** will allow you to include Portillo's direct advance PICKUP orders in the fundraising night total. Place your pick-up order online or in the Portillo's app using the code before checkout in the "Apply Offer" field.

## MONTH AT A GLANCE

437

TOTAL ATTENDANCE/  
MEALS SERVED

NEW KIDS

2

6

RETURNING KIDS  
(AFTER 6+ MONTHS ABSENT)

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

116

13

VOLUNTEERS (NEW)

VOLUNTEER HOURS

751.1

This month's list has a little of everything!

Thank you for your faithful support each month. You make it possible for us to meet the needs of the kids we serve .

Donations can be dropped off at our office from 9 AM to 3 PM (M-F) OR order through Amazon or Walmart and have them delivered to us at 1325 7th Street; Rockford, IL 61104. Be sure to include your name on the receipt so we know who to thank.

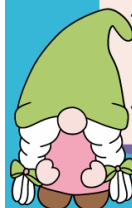
*Thank you!!*



## APRIL Wish List



- Underwear Boys Sizes 6/8 10/12 12/14 18/20 >
- Underwear Girls Sizes 6 12 12/14 14/16 16/18 18+ >
- Individual large candy bars >
- Peanut Butter Sandwich Crackers >
- Water 16.9oz & 8oz bottles >
- Teen coloring books >
- Large & Mini foam dice >
- Brain teasers/puzzles/Rubik's Cubes >



*Thank you for supporting our kids!*

