



JUNE
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:

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Rockford, IL 61104

Phone: 815-962-5067

Email: Info@rockhousekids.org

Web: 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...

One evening, a volunteer came to tell me a 4th grader, whom we will call Mary, told her something she thought I needed to hear. As the volunteer spoke, you could see the hurt in her eyes. She said, "Mary is very afraid to be at her house and would like to talk to me."

One evening, a volunteer approached me with concerns about a 4th grader named Mary. Mary had confided in the volunteer that she was afraid to be at home and needed someone to talk to. We sat down with Mary to hear her story. She explained that her stepdad's brother had come to their house and started threatening her family. Her stepdad went outside to confront him, but the man didn't leave until there was a fight. He then threatened to come back and hurt them before running away when he heard the police. Unfortunately, Mary's stepdad was arrested in front of her, causing her to fear for her family's safety. We encouraged Mary to talk to her mom and provided her with a phone number to call in case of danger.

The following Wednesday, she was back at RHK. I asked her how she was, and she smiled and gave me the thumbs up. She said everything was better now. Her smile was bright, and her eyes were shining. We saw no sign of the fear on her face that we had seen just 48 hours prior.

I share this story to show the importance of volunteering. If this volunteer did not take the time to build a relationship with Mary, she might not have told anyone about the terror she felt. This little 4th grader would be holding it all inside her little body.

At RHK, we talk about being a safe place for the kids, so they can be kids without worrying about the outside world.

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CHANGING LIVES continued...

Our volunteers have a challenging job, as they serve long hours after their full-time jobs to ensure that each child feels loved and valued.

I asked some of our volunteers why they do it. Why do they come each week?

One said, "I wanted to help, but I felt anxiety about working with the kids. So, I started working as a behind-the-scenes person. I enjoyed this, but as I heard stories about the kids who came to RHK, I kept thinking someone needed to be there for the kids. Kids need to have someone they can rely on. They need examples of what it looks like to care for someone. I answered the call God has for me to be at RHK. While at RHK, I like that we are giving the kids a safe place to be fed, learn about Jesus, and make healthy friendships. Best decision I have made!"

Another said, "Serving at RHK is much more gratifying than the feeling you get from writing a check. Checks are needed but don't hug you back, lend an ear to a child that needs to be heard, or provide affirmations to a child that needs someone to be proud of them."

I know when I work with the kids, I see a child's life change right before my eyes. They may have been very angry and untrusting when they first started at RHK, but they have come to trust, smile, and engage through time. This is a win. I see kids who are being fed both physically and spiritually. Through this, I see them thrive. They are happier and self-confident while at RHK. I get to see kids turn into leaders.

RHK is here to change kids' lives, but in all honesty, the kids change our lives, too.

Are you ready to help influence a child's life for the better? Are you ready to have your life changed, as well?

Please visit our website at rockhousekids.org or call us at 815-962-5067 (Monday-Friday between 9-3).

Blessings.

Executive Director, Rock House Kids

GET READY FOR STREETS & SWEETS 2023

God is building something special at Rock House Kids.

Please plan to join us as we will be hosting a full sit-down dinner for the first time this year.

We can't wait to share all the ways we see Him working at RHK!

Watch for more details coming soon.

See you in September!

Save the Date
Streets & Sweets 2023
ANNUAL FUNDRAISER DINNER
September 21, 2023



FUN WITH STATELINE CHURCH

Our kids had a great time when a group from Stateline Church came and put on an event night for them. What a fun night! With crafts, games, cereal box puzzles, tin foil hats and Mr. Potato Heads - You couldn't miss. The kids loved it. Thank you for all the hard work and care you put into creating such a memorable experience for them.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - LISA BUBELA

Meet Lisa. She has been a volunteer mentor/station leader at RHK for a year and also serves on our Volunteer Advisory Board.

An immigrant from Belarus, Lisa grew up in Rockford after her family moved to the US in 2001. There is a small Slavic community in Rockford and she teaches Sunday School at the Slavic Baptist Church. She has also worked with special education in the RPS 205 district for four years.

When asked why she decided to volunteer at RHK, Lisa said: "When I started working in the public schools, I saw first-hand the needs of children in our community, and it broke my heart. I realized while I could provide for their academic needs in school, what these children really needed was the gospel. I prayed about what I could do since I couldn't tell my students about Jesus at school. One day at work, a student was running through the hallways. He stopped when he saw me to ask: 'Do you go to Rock House?' He must have confused me with another volunteer, but his simple question was the push I needed to start volunteering at RHK. This opportunity was the answer to my prayers."

She shares: "One night we were talking about how Jesus gives us peace. I asked the students to think about what makes them feel at peace. Some of the students talked about a friend, a place, or a parent, but one student said being at Rock House Kids made him feel at peace. His words reminded me of how important it is for these kids to have a place like RHK, and showed me that God is using RHK to work in their hearts."

What keeps her coming back? Making relationships with the kids and strengthening those relationships every time she sees them. She is so thankful that these kids have let her be a part of their life even when just a year ago she was a stranger to so many of them. She loves being in a place where people from all walks of life, from all over the city, come together to bring glory to God.

"Rockford needs people to care about its children. If you have a heart for children and care about the future of our community, come and join us at Rock House Kids!"



WELCOME, NEW RHK VOLUNTEERS!

Ada Estella
Brandy Harris
Neil Jordan
Alyssa Henricksen

Andrew Barrett
Nicholas Vincent
Roderice Hargan



Welcome
TO THE
TEAM



Leah Hillman
Front Office Coordinator

rockhousekids.org

June Stop:

Red Robin

June 29,
2023



We are excited to add a new stop to our big Eats Tour this month. You can't beat the burgers at Red Robin and who doesn't love their bottomless steak fries? Yum!

Mention this fundraiser and 15 % of your bill will be donated to Rock House Kids.

Where: Red Robin
7029 E State Street, Rockford, IL

When: 11 AM - 8 PM

We will see you there!

MONTH AT A GLANCE

583

TOTAL ATTENDANCE/
MEALS SERVED

NEW KIDS

23

11

RETURNING KIDS
(AFTER 6+ MONTHS ABSENT)

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

118

13

VOLUNTEERS (NEW)

VOLUNTEER HOURS

984

Summer is here! Although schools are closed, RHK stays open to ensure our kids have a safe place to go and are fed during summer break. Thank you for helping make that possible.

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!!



JUNE
Wish List



- Dried Fruit (assortment) - indiv. servings >
- Fruit snacks >
- 100% Fruit Juice Boxes >
- Peanut Butter sandwich crackers >
- Deodorant (mens' & womens')
- Cereal Cups/pouches/boxes (Single servings)
- Beach Towels
- Washable Markers



Thank you for supporting our kids!