



JULY
2023



Compassion Around the Corner

Monthly Newsletter

In This Issue

- Director's Letter, 1 & 2
- Family Circle, Sponsors Needed, 2
- Program Highlights, 3
- Volunteer Spotlight, 3
- Month at Glance, 4
- Wish List, 4
- Welcome Volunteers, 4
- Big Eats Tour, 4

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

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...

Summertime is here, and so are more activities and kids!

Summer started with a field trip to Skateland for 79 of our 1st-6th grade kids. They had pizza, lemonade, slushies, and lots of fun! At first, more kids were on their bottoms than their feet, but by the end of the night, they had gained confidence and were racing around the rink like pros.

At the end of June, the kids moved up to the next grade in our program. Promotion night brings a mix of emotions between joy and sadness. One volunteer who works with the Pebbles (1st & 2nd graders) was glad she would be on vacation during this time because she knew she would cry seeing her little ones move on to third grade. Each child changes so much in a year. Some make the hair on the back of your neck stand up because you know they will give you a run for your money. Then it happens. They start growing up. The hair standing up on the back of your neck turns to goosebumps because you are so proud of how far they have come.

We had one boy who would walk into the building, and everyone would buckle up! Over the year, we saw a child who was frustrated, angry and refused to listen. Now, he is moving on to third grade as a little man. He loves to be a helper and gives the best hugs ever.

Teen promotion is more emotional. Our Seniors graduate from the program. We may not see them each week, but many come back to visit and even volunteer. It is fun getting to know them on an adult level. One young man is home from college this summer and has been volunteering. The boys look up to him. He is an excellent example of what you can do with your life if you try hard and are determined.

Our annual picnic at Lockwood Park was a blast, as usual. The kids enjoyed lots of food, face painting, running, laughing, games, and more running. Lockwood Park is my favorite field trip of the year. I love seeing the kids enjoy themselves. We are very thankful for the Rockford Park District awarding RHK a grant to take the kids to Lockwood.

Continued on pg 2 >

Summer Fun

SUMMER FUN continued...

I am excited to say we opened our Thursday Teen programming for the girls. Their first night was a movie night. They each received a blanket and pillow and could lounge as though they were at a sleepover party. Secretly the girls are hoping we do not get any male volunteers for Thursdays, so the boys won't be able to come. The girls feel special having their own night.

Building construction has had its ups and downs. RHK has an old building, and with the old building comes unforeseen issues. We are continuing with the demolition of our construction area. The ceilings and insulation are gone now, and we are down to the shell of the building. Walking through the site, I envision the kids filling the space with energy. We are praying we will be able to have the area completed by Christmas. What a Christmas party the kids could have!

As you can see, summer does not mean we get to slow down at RHK. We get busier. We have more activities and kids. With that, our needs also increase during a time when donations decrease.

If you want to learn more about how you can help, follow RHK on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Also, visit our website, rockhousekids.org, or come in for a tour. We would love to show you what the preconstruction area looks like so you can catch the vision.

Blessings.

Dee

Executive Director, Rock House Kids



Have you heard about our RHK Family Circle? Members of our RHK Family Circle are an integral part of the Rock House Kids family. They are caring, compassionate monthly givers committed to sharing God's love with inner-city children by meeting their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs by instilling hope in a safe, Christ-centered environment.

Joining is easy! Call our office (815-962-5067), and we can get you signed up.

Each gift we receive is precious to us. When you decide to give regularly, you have committed to the children we serve, and we do not take that for granted.

That is why we are committed to emailing our RHK Family Circle members monthly video updates from our Director, Dee Lacny, with the latest from our RHK family. After all, you are family - Welcome!



Our annual Streets & Sweets Fundraiser is coming soon. We need more table sponsors to help offset the costs of the event. This event is a fantastic opportunity for local businesses, churches, and individuals to partner with RHK and receive some excellent advertising exposure at the same time.

Join us as a Sponsor for a fun-filled evening to invest in the future of Rockford's inner-city youth. Help us continue to fulfill our mission to share God's love with inner-city children through Biblical principles, with physical and spiritual solutions.

SPONSORSHIP LEVEL OPPORTUNITIES:

Mountain - \$5,000 - Already taken

Boulder - \$2,750

Stone - \$1,500

Pebble - \$750

For questions or to become a sponsor, contact Nikki Reid at nikki@rockhousekids.org or call 815-962-5067.

STARTING SUMMER OFF RIGHT!

We kicked off summer at RHK with field trips - bowling for the teens and skating for the 1st-6th graders. It was great getting out and having fun while working on building new skills. It was hard work, but they were determined.

The teen girls enjoyed having Thursday nights at RHK to themselves (at least for now), and even with the hot weather, we all enjoyed some cool evenings playing 9-square, basketball and playing on the playground.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - NICHOLAS VINCENT

My name is Nicholas Vincent. I've been volunteering at RHK for a little over a month now.

I learned about Rock House Kids through my church. Instantly, I was inclined to serve there because of my background. By age 28, I had served a third of my life in prison due to gang activity. God found me alone in my jail cell, forever changing my life. I knew upon release that I had to make a difference in the lives of youth; to show them the love of Christ and direct them towards a better path than the streets provide. My ten years of incarceration will be well worth it if I can impact one child's life and deter them from the gang and drug lifestyle. That is my prayer, and I strongly believe that is one of my purposes. These kids and I can relate to each other.

Rock House Kids is an amazing ministry. I love that it's Christ-centered - a safe place to hang out and be around positive, Godly influences.

One of my favorite memories is from the bowling trip a few weeks back. They wanted me to bowl with them, thinking I'd be good, and I failed miserably. There were a lot of good laughs and camaraderie.

It's a joy to see these kids having a blast with huge smiles on their faces. They could easily be out in the streets in unsafe situations, but because RHK exists, they are in a loving and fun environment. God willing, I will continue giving my time at RHK every week. So thankful for this ministry.





WELCOME, NEW RHK VOLUNTEERS!

Thad Andrews Dani Jackson
Rob White Rob Warkins

JOB OPENING Program Coordinator

Full-time (40 hours/wk)

Rock House Kids is looking for an experienced Children's Ministry professional to lead our evening programs serving Rockford's inner-city kids.

Are you fun and creative leader?
Does project management come easily to you?
Do you have strong communication skills and relate easily to others?

If so, we may have a great opportunity for you!



For a full job description or to apply, contact: Dee Lacny @815.962.5067 or email dee@rockhousekids.org.

July Stop:

Panera

July 29,
2023



Join us as we head to Panera in Machesney Park for this month's Big Eats Tour.

20% of your bill will be donated to RHK. You must show the flyer for in-person orders or use the promo code **FUND4U** at checkout when ordering online via Panerabread.com or the Panera App.



SCAN for the Flyer

Where: Panera

1512 West Lane Road, Machesney Park, IL

When: 4-8 PM

We will see you there!

MONTH AT A GLANCE

627

TOTAL ATTENDANCE/
MEALS SERVED

NEW KIDS

5

21

RETURNING KIDS
(AFTER 6+ MONTHS ABSENT)

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

206

4

VOLUNTEERS (NEW)

VOLUNTEER HOURS

1078

The kids and teens at RHK enjoy craft time, and one of the most popular is making colorful Rubber Band bracelets. You can find supply kits to make them on Amazon. We would love to have as many as possible for the kids.

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. Please include your name on the receipt so we know who to thank.

Thank you!!



JULY Wish List



- Flip Flops (all sizes) >
- Copy Paper (various colors) >
- Frank's Red Hot Sauce - Gallon Size >
- Peanut Butter Sandwich Crackers >
- Fruit Cups / Dried Fruit >
- Water Bottles (8oz and 16oz) >
- Rubber Band Bracelet Kits >
- Lotion (all sizes) >



Thank you for supporting our kids!