



**AUGUST**  
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

Scan for more information about Rock House Kids



### 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...

During the bus ride home from our field trips, a third grader asked if I would sit with her. Of course, I said, "Yes." How could I say no to such a sweet request?

As we bumped along on our ride, she told me she was adopted. She said her mom told her she doesn't want her anymore but is keeping her sister because her sister isn't as "bad" as she is. As I listen to this little girl and look into her beautiful wide eyes, my heart breaks for her.

Our conversation continued. The young lady continued to mention how Mom would take things away from her to give to her sister because she is the "good" one. She said, "I am old enough to care for my stuff."

She also told me she "can't" listen. Her mommy constantly screamed this at her. She said, "I try to listen. I just can't." Unfortunately, with this thought pattern fostered at home, now, this is what she believes.

I told her we don't use the word can't. We need to try. Sometimes we accomplish what we are trying, and other times we don't, but we must keep trying.

She looked at me and asked if I thought she could listen. "Absolutely." It might be tricky initially, but I am confident she can do it.

As I pondered our conversation, I looked around at many of our other kids. How many other kids on the bus feel like they "can't" do something? How many of them needed to have someone be their cheerleader, come alongside them, and listen to them? Someone to take the time to show them they are valued and that what they have to say is worth hearing.

I had that person in high school who encouraged me to go for my accounting degree back when this was not a popular profession for women. He made an impact on me and changed my outlook on life. Instead of "I can't," I have the "I can" attitude. There have been kids who have grown out of the program and are back volunteering because they know how their lives were changed by being at RHK. As one past attendee said, "Rock House is my second home. You all always showed me love and believed in me."

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"I Can!"

## "I CAN!" continued...

I have been at RHK for nine years and have seen children come and go. I have heard hundreds of stories of broken and happy hearts. What I have seen is that the children need to have an "I can" attitude. Especially now. The world is not the same as it was even just nine years ago.

The world has gotten scarier for the children. Violence both inside and outside of the home has increased. Violence in schools has increased. Not a week goes by that a teen has not talked about seeing a fight at school. As I write this, I just got off the phone with a local detective wanting to have camera footage of a shooting on Monday at 10:00 am! RHK needs to continue to be a place where kids feel safe, heard, and, most importantly, loved.

Each of you reading this newsletter is part of the change for the kids. Whether you donate (financially or in-kind), provide a meal, volunteer, pray, or tell others about RHK. You are spreading the word and making a difference in the lives of hundreds of children.

Without YOU, we could not make an impact in the lives of children.

Blessings,

Dee Lacny  
Executive Director, Rock House Kids



We want to express our sincere appreciation to all who reached out to our RHK staff and family after the death of sweet Destiny Huggins. She was one of our kids, and we miss her greatly.

The words of consolation, prayers, and compassion ministered to our hearts when we needed it most.

Please continue to pray for all those grieving her loss.

***"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."***  
***Psalm 147:3 ESV***

## PARTNER CHURCHES & RHK = A WINNING COMBINATION



Rock House Kids is blessed to have fantastic support from several churches in the Rockford area. These partners allow us to continue our mission to share Christ's love as we serve the kids who come here. This month, we wanted to share how church partners have stepped up for our kids.

- They are sending volunteers to help with our evening program or during the day.
- Some raise funds for Rock House Kids during their Vacation Bible Schools and Kids Camps.
- By hosting special event nights or kids camps for our kids - sometimes complete with inflatables, carnival games, sno-cones, and more. Of course, they are always a hit!
- Giving monthly financial support.
- By providing hot meals for our kids.
- Picking up trash outside or taking on work projects.

- One church calls monthly to find out what we need. We always know it won't be long before someone arrives at our front door with a delivery from the church. They also send a team of volunteers every month to help fill food bags for the kids.
- The outpouring of love our partner churches gave us after losing Destiny was genuinely humbling. We felt the prayers of so many interceding for us. Some found ways to bless the staff. One church sent a team of grief counselors and therapy dogs for the kids, volunteers, and staff to talk to if they needed it. Others gave financially to help meet the needs of her sisters.
- Plus, many, many more!

God is at work at RHK, and He is using volunteers and churches with a desire to share His love with children in need to make a difference. Those who volunteer in their community develop a passion for ministry, which they bring back to the church. The result? A vibrant church filled with people who have a heart to serve.

How can RHK partner with your church?



# SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

It has been a month full of fun activities! Here is a little peek at what we have been up to lately:

## Lockwood Park

Our field trip to Lockwood Park is always a fun night. With an extra-large playground, face paints, lawn games and, plenty to explore, what's not to love?



## Kids' Camp

Forest City Church held a Kids' Camp just for our kids. Worship times, fun crafts, sports, carnival games, inflatables, and tie-dye shirts made happy, tired kids by the end.



## Whiz Kids

The Rock Valley College Whiz Kids workshops came to RHK for six weeks. The kids enjoyed learning how to make different fun gadgets to take home.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - KATHY CARLSON

My name is Kathy Carlson. I have been at Rock House Kids since last October and am on the Volunteer Advisory Board.

I have been a Rockford Resident for almost 40 years. My husband Doug and I have four grown children and five grandchildren.

Why did I decide to join the RHK volunteer team? That is a good question. As many of us do, I watch the news at night. I hear what happens around our city and wonder how I can make a difference. Where do I start? Where can one person be the most help? Well, I found that in Rock House Kids. I have always thought every child needs love, guidance, and mentoring to develop into a loving, caring person. At Rock House Kids, I see a place where children who might not see these things at home can at least experience it here.

Using my gifts of compassion and nurturing, I seek to show the kids at RHK people do care about them. They are God's children. He has called me to be a part of their lives in a special way. Sometimes I get discouraged, thinking I am not making a difference. Then one of the kids will come up and ask for a hug, and that may be the first one they have gotten that day.

That makes a Difference!





# WELCOME, NEW RHK VOLUNTEERS!

Taylor Vincent



Streets & Sweets will be here soon - September 21, 2023. This year's event will feature a full sit-down dinner and, for the first time, a live auction. We can't wait to share what God is doing at RHK. It is sure to be an exciting evening.

See the reservation form included for more information.

## August Stop:

# Noodles & Company

August 17,  
2023



Join us as we head to Noodles & Company for this month's Big Eats Tour.

Mention this Rock House Kids' fundraiser and 25% of your bill will be donated to benefit our kids. If you order online, enter the offer code "Giving25" at checkout.



SCAN for the Flyer

**Where:** Noodles & Company  
6430 E State St Ste 118, Rockford, IL 61108

**When:** 4-8 PM

We will see you there!

## MONTH AT A GLANCE

608

TOTAL ATTENDANCE/  
MEALS SERVED

NEW KIDS

15

28

RETURNING KIDS  
(AFTER 6+ MONTHS ABSENT)

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

138

1

VOLUNTEERS (NEW)

VOLUNTEER HOURS

900

It's almost time for school to start, and our 5th-6th camp will be here soon. This month's list will help us ensure the campers have the necessary supplies. Thank you for helping make this opportunity happen for them.

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!!*



## AUGUST Wish List

- Sleeping Bags and Pillows
- Beach Towels
- Shampoo & Conditioner (Travel Size)
- Volleyballs /Nerf footballs
- Cardstock (in various colors)
- Water Bottles (8oz and 16oz)
- Bubbles
- Wash Cloths
- Black Plastic T-Shirt bags



*Thank you for supporting our kids!*

