



March 2024



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
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Rockford, IL 61104

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Web: 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
- Bob Mellon
- Dee Lacny, *Executive Director*

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...

It's a cold winter evening and you're glad to be home and warm, when your mobile phone rings. You check the phone screen to see who's calling, but you don't recognize the number. Should you answer or assume it's another spam call? Nine out of 10 times I do not answer if I don't know the number. But this time was different: I did answer, and I am so glad I did. The caller was a former RHK kid. He is now 23 years old and had gotten himself into some major trouble.

When I heard his voice, I had mixed emotions. Why is he calling me? What does he want? Is he going to ask for money? All these questions flooded through my mind. Then came the reason for the call: "Ms. Dee, will you pray for me? My court date is coming up."

When I heard his scared voice, more emotions washed over me. I was mad at myself for thinking the worst, then felt humbled that this young man reached out to me. He didn't ask for money. He asked for something he knew would be more valuable: **prayer**. He knew that at RHK he was loved unconditionally, without judgment.

I am in my tenth year at RHK and have seen a lot of kids come and go. Each one has left an imprint on my heart. As they've moved on to adult life, many have made poor choices while others have learned to make good choices. Yet, I have not given up on one. How could I when I have made mistakes in my own life? Maybe not with consequences as large as some of theirs but, still, living with consequences.

At RHK we teach the kids about Jesus, the only Person who never messed up. We teach them about His unconditional love; His forgiveness; the hope He offers to all of us.

How can we turn our back on someone who made a mistake when Jesus hasn't turned His back on us?

Romans 5:8 (NIV) makes this very clear:

"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Continued on pg 2 >



FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR *continued...*

During our Valentine's Day program, we asked the kids why they keep coming to RHK. Here are some of their answers:

- "I get to see everyone that loves me". (age 8)
- "So, I can eat." (age 11)
- "It's about God, and we love God." (age 10)
- "All the teachers know the kids." (age 9)

When we hear these responses, we know RHK kids are finding the love of Jesus here. It's not just words that they hear; it's love that continues to show up; that answers the fearful phone call; that "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." [1 Corinthians 13:7]

We take note when RHK graduates stop by and share how their time here made a difference in their lives. Many have told us they don't know where they would be today if RHK hadn't been part of their growing up years. Many more tell us RHK was where they felt loved and knew others believed in them. For others, weekend meals came solely from the RHK food packs they took home at the end of each week. These issues still face kids in 2024.

RHK is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. During that time, more than 1,000 kids have walked through our doors and been able to eat a hot meal, interact with adults who believed in them, and hear about the love of Jesus.

This is why we at RHK continue to do the hard work. If one makes a poor choice, such as the young man I referred to, this will always be a safe place to call when they need encouragement. We will always be their cheerleaders and show them unconditional love - not condone the behavior but love the person.

We need more people to come alongside the kids. Are you that person? Can you lend an ear to a child who just wants to be heard? Can you show unconditional love to a child the world would cast away as unlovable?

If you said yes to any of these questions, we want to talk to you! If you say "I just can't", we want to talk to you. Maybe you are a behind-the-scenes person, prayer warrior, or a financial contributor.

We need you all so RHK can continue to help those the Lord has called us to serve.

Blessings,

Dee Lacny, Executive Director, Rock House Kids

25 YEARS
1999-2024
RHK
ROCK HOUSE KIDS

ROCK N BOWL

Fundraiser



Saturday, March 16, 2024

rockhousekids.org

Come support our kids and have a "ball" doing it!

Whether you are a serious bowler, enjoy the game, or are just there to make others feel better about their score, we would love to have you join us for our next Rock N Bowl.

It will surely be a night full of laughter and friendly competition that you won't want to miss!

Includes:

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

Enjoy the 50/50 raffle, raffle baskets, great food, and tons of fun!

Cost: \$45 per two-person team - Bowling & Buffet
or \$10 per non-bowler - Buffet Only

Location: Park Lanes Bowling Center - 5318 N 2nd St,
Loves Park, IL 61111-5009

Doors Open: 6:45 PM /Start: 7:00 PM

Deadline to sign up: March 13, 2024

To Sign-Up:

- 1) rockhousekids.org/rock-n-bowl/
- or
- 2) Scan the QR code.



9-Pin No Tap, Scotch Doubles Bowling Rules

For games 1 and 3, Bowler 1 throws the first shot in each frame. If he strikes or knocks down 9 (considered a strike in 9-pin, no tap), the first frame is complete, and his teammate does not throw. If Bowler 1 doesn't strike or knock down 9, Bowler 2 must get up to shoot the spare.

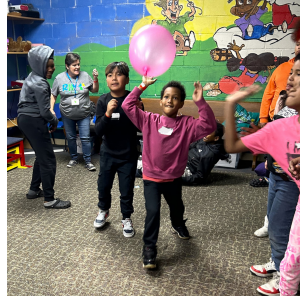
Game 2 is led by Bowler 2 throwing the first ball.

RHK KIDS “LOVE” A HOLIDAY!

On February 14, our RHK kids celebrated Valentine's Day with a fun event night.

The kids divided into groups and rotated to various stations together throughout the night. Four stations featured different games - like Valentine's Day Bingo, a relay to build the highest stack of heart candies, balloon volley, and a "cake walk" (it was really a "candy walk" since all of the prizes were candy). There was also a craft station where they made their own little pompom friends.

The highlight for many came at the end of the night. Their eyes lit up when they got to pick from a selection of Squishmallows and giant stuffed animals to take home with them. (Thank you to the generous donors who provided them!)



Teen lounge area



Classrooms & game area



New restrooms



New brickwork

EXPANSION UPDATE - PROGRESS!

Many have asked how our construction project is going. We are happy to say it is moving along well.

What was once empty warehouse space is transforming into classrooms, a game room, a teen lounge, restrooms and a multipurpose gym area. We can't wait to show you when it's all completed, but for now, we wanted to give you a sneak peek at what has been done so far.

Plus, the good weather has allowed the workers to complete some much needed masonry repairs on the front of our building.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - PAT SENGLAUB

My name is Pat. I am a retired elementary school teacher who is now a full-time “Grandma Nanny” to my preschool-aged granddaughter. She and the rambunctious sheepdog my husband and I adopted keep me on my toes.

I have volunteered at RHK for the past eighteen months as a 3rd & 4th grade girls’ leader and, occasionally, as a station leader. After I retired from teaching, I asked God to show me where he wanted me to serve, and soon after, I learned about RHK. It did not take long to see this ministry was where I belonged. As a former teacher, I enjoy asking the kids about their school day. They know I want to hear one good thing that happened that day. I also love having the opportunity to greet the children as they enter the building. I absolutely love knowing that I can make them feel welcome just by saying “hello” with a big smile.

Working with such a diverse group of kids is challenging. Yet I know, one day, one of my greatest joys will come in Heaven when all kinds of little people run up to me and say, “Do you remember me? I learned about Jesus at RHK.” Every child deserves and needs to feel like he/she is a treasure. Please come and help us love on these treasures.



WELCOME, NEW RHK VOLUNTEERS!

Donovan Golden Deondri Manalli
Stephanie Washington Andrea Dutz
Trevor Tellschow Lisa Ayala
Sheredia Washington

Volunteers are needed in all areas, including specific needs for:

Van Drivers - All Program nights (Mon, Tue, Weds, & Thu)
Mentors (men) - 5th/6th grade boys (Mon. & Weds)

“NONPROFIT OF THE GAME”

Rock House Kids was the Rockford IceHogs' "Nonprofit of the Game" on Friday, February 19th, and we had a fantastic time! We used the night to show appreciation to our volunteers and let others in our community know about our work.



We enjoyed telling people about RHK, sharing some sweet treats, and lots of laughter as we greeted fans at the RHK table in the foyer.

Thank you to everyone who bought tickets and came to support RHK and our local team!

TEENS LEARN THE KEYS TO HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Several local organizations worked together to lead a “Healthy Relationships” workshop for our teens on February 11.

The teens divided into four groups and rotated to different stations. Topics covered included:

1. Healthy communication
2. Consent
3. Healthy friendships
4. Red flags.

We want to thank our friends at the University of Illinois MERIT program, Remedies Renewing Lives, Youth Services Network and Flathead Valley Community College for giving of their time and resources to share with our teens.

MONTH AT A GLANCE

547

TOTAL ATTENDANCE/
MEALS SERVED

NEW KIDS

9

15

RETURNING KIDS
(AFTER 6+ MONTHS ABSENT)

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

108

7

VOLUNTEERS (NEW)

VOLUNTEER HOURS

794.9

Jesus is the greatest role model for unconditional love. Thank you for following His example and sharing your love with our kids. We appreciate your care and support.

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

Thank you!!



MARCH Wish List



- Ranch Dressing (gallon size)
- Grated Parmesan Cheese (24 oz)
- Capri Sun
- Peanut Butter Ritz Sandwich Crackers
- Disposable 3-Compartment Plates
- Candy Bars (full size)
- Plastic Table Cloths
- 8" x 8" Blank Art Canvases
- Glow Sticks



Thank you for supporting our kids!