



APRIL 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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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

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FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...

Can change really happen? Do careful programming, solid support, prayer, and hundreds of hours of intentional interaction with kids and teens make a difference?

Please allow me to vent a bit. During my ten years at RHK, I've been asked many questions and heard even more comments. Many times, I've been questioned about why we bother working with kids at RHK. Here is just a sampling of what I've heard:

- "Those' kids don't listen."
- "They only want to be at RHK to get 'stuff.'"
- "They won't change."

Feedback like this breaks my heart because it doesn't tell the whole story. Allow me to share some "snapshots" of what happened at RHK Winter Camp, March 1-2 at Camp Timber-lee in East Troy, Wisconsin. Then, reach your own conclusions about why we bother to do this work.

Friday at 5:00 pm, the excitement began. Our teens started showing up at RHK for our weekend adventure. We filled our bellies with pizza and then piled into the RHK vans to head north. Each year when we prepare for camp, we never know what to expect; this year was no different. Once we arrived at camp and everyone was settled into their rooms, we regrouped to have fun snacking, playing 9-Square, Gaga Ball, and singing karaoke. This allowed the kids to let off some energy after the long bus trip.

The next stop was the Chapel for a time of worship, singing, dancing, and teaching. You could feel the excitement in the air. When it was time for our guest speaker to teach, everyone settled in to listen. Well, maybe not everyone. Some kids sitting in front of our group were talking, not paying attention at all. They were quite a distraction. I watched as our RHK kids were quiet and listened to the speaker's words. I have to say it was a proud "mama" moment for me.

Lack of attention and misbehavior are not a "these kids" problem. The same behaviors others have pointed out at RHK are prevalent throughout our society. People have lost respect for one another and even for themselves. There has been a loss of grace for others. What happened to "err on the side of mercy"? The negative is now the first go-to.

Continued on pg 2 >



FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR continued...

People have lost the art of putting others first. RHK kids are taught there is a time to be silly and crazy, and there is a time to rein it in and get down to business.

One of our high school seniors was so frustrated with the noisy kids in front that he told them to “be quiet!” The look on the other kids’ faces was priceless. They looked confused that another kid would tell them to be quiet. Our students know we take God’s Word and teaching seriously at RHK. Here’s the real point: some of our kids are owning those values themselves.

The next day, this same teen was the only kid standing during praise and worship time. He was unashamed as he praised the Lord with uplifted hands. This particular young man has family members who are now incarcerated because of choices they made as gang members running the streets.

By contrast, this particular student has made different, better decisions. He has chosen to come to RHK each week; he decided to come to camp and allow God to move in him. He’s looking beyond what he sees going on around him. He’s becoming a leader among his peers. He not only has a plan for after high school, but has asked if he could come back and volunteer at RHK. RHK has made a difference in his life—that’s not up for debate—and he wants to do the same for others.

On our first teen night back at RHK after camp, the excitement was still with them. They wanted to sing the songs that were sung at camp, and they sang loud and proud. When asked about camp and what they learned, they could tell us.

I have many phone calls, texts, and visits from kids who already have gone through RHK. When they check in with us later, EVERY one of them says the same thing: their time at RHK made a positive difference.

At so many points along the road when I’m at my end physically and mentally, God shows up and throws a blessing like this. Camp is a planted seed in their memories that kids go back to time and time again. They grow up, but when they return, they always have a positive memory to share: proof that the RHK impacted who they are today.

This is why we “bother”.

Blessings,



Dee Lacny, Executive Director, Rock House Kids



HAVING A BALL AT ROCK N BOWL

What a night! This year's Rock N Bowl fundraiser event on March 16 was the best yet. More than 80 people came out to Park Lanes Bowling to bowl or root for their favorite team - all to support RHK and show love for our kids.

In addition to bowling, there was a 50/50 raffle, a wide variety of raffle baskets, and a tasty pasta buffet.

This event couldn't have happened without our lane sponsors.

Please join us in thanking:

AdvancedChimney

Aqua-Aerobics

CoyleKiley

Duraclean

Honest Pest Control

Iverson Painting

J&M Plating

Keystone Insurance

Lawncare by Walter

M. Spinello

Perfectly Seasoned

We appreciate all who helped make this event a success. See you next year!



SKATELAND FIELD TRIP FOR THE WIN!

Our elementary kids get excited whenever we have a field trip to Skateland. They got to go on March 18, and they had a blast!

Many of them take a little bit to get their balance and figure out how to stay upright. But they stick with it, and as the night goes on, their confidence builds, and they surprise themselves with how well they are doing.

We pray the lessons of perseverance learned will last long after the field trip is over.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - GRACE JONES

My name is Grace. I currently work cleaning homes (being my own boss is nice) and help lead the Front Desk in a Chiropractic office.

I've been volunteering at Rock House Kids for about 14 years as one of the lead teachers on Monday nights, along with my sister, Hope. When I was 14, I loved serving and helping those less fortunate than myself, so I looked for a place to volunteer that was spreading God's love to adults and children. I learned of Rock House Kids through Dola Gregory, who gave me one of their cards. I looked up the organization and read about what they did and what they taught; it was exactly what I was looking for. I knew I had to call.

I love working with kids because it takes me out of my comfort zone. As I teach them about God's word, I learn along with them and learn more about myself along the way. It's challenging, but teaching a child and pouring into them brings so much joy. Challenges are good for us; they help us grow more if we let them help shape us.

As I look back, it's pretty amazing to know I was able to share in so many kids' lives, teaching them how much they were loved by us at RHK and, more importantly, by God.

I've missed out on some pretty cool opportunities by not acting on them when I had the chance. Everyone has something to give and gifts to help meet someone else's needs. Why not share those at Rock House Kids? We all can learn to give of ourselves more. We are made to be part of a community. Let's learn to serve one another better, and as we do so, we honor God. Happy volunteering!



WELCOME, NEW RHK VOLUNTEERS!

Chris Donalli Celeste Torres Ed Tinsley

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

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



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION WEEK
April 21-27, 2024

We are incredibly grateful for our wonderful volunteers' willingness to give their time, energy, and talents to our kids. They have a vital role in helping to create REAL change in their lives, sharing Christ's love and the hope He offers them.

RHK'S APRIL BIG EATS TOUR

Great Company! Great Food! A Great Cause!

This month we have TWO great fundraiser stops on our Big Eats Tour. Come join us!

Quixotic Bakery's "Warm Cookie Bake" -

116 N. Madison St, Rockford
April 5, 2024, 5-7 PM

20% of all orders that include items from the "Warm Cookie Bake" menu will be donated to RHK.

Pre-order your items starting on March 30, 2024.



Scan here for more details



Scan here for the flyer and more details

Texas Roadhouse -

7240 Walton St, Rockford
April 29, 2024, 3-10 PM

Present the flyer (use the QR code) and 10% of your total food purchase will be donated to Rock House Kids. Dine in or Carry Out.

MONTH AT A GLANCE

685

TOTAL ATTENDANCE/
MEALS SERVED

NEW KIDS

3

9

RETURNING KIDS
(AFTER 6+ MONTHS ABSENT)

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

143

3

VOLUNTEERS (NEW)

VOLUNTEER HOURS

868.9

Spring is here, and change is in the air. Thank you for giving and helping to create change for so many of our kids. You all rock!

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!!



APRIL Wish List

- Flips Flops (all sizes)
- Disposable Plastic Food Service Gloves
- Bottled Water (16 oz and 8 oz sizes)
- Disposable Coffee Cups (12 & 8 oz)
- Popsicle Sticks
- Plastic Table Cloths (Rectangle)
- Craft Pom Poms
- Pipe Cleaners
- Salt & Pepper set (5.25 oz)

Thank you for supporting our kids!