

## Welcome!

This is the first of a series of quarterly newsletters to let our donors and community supporters know what is happening at The Vault and the valuable impact we are making on our teens and our community. As we move forward, please feel free to give us feedback on topics and information you would be interested in hearing about or other ideas you may have to make this newsletter as informative as possible!

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### Director's Update

In compliance with the Governor's Shelter-in-Place order, we had to shut our doors to students on March 16. Since then, like many other businesses and non-profits, we have had to rethink how we can best

operate to serve our students and community during this very challenging time. This has involved revising our budget and coming up with creative ways to stay connected to our Vault students. We hope to announce our summer hours soon, but we will have to wait and see when we will be allowed to gather again.



The Vault's Executive Director,  
Tammy Wilson

In the meantime, we have been calling our students and reaching out through texts/social media to make sure they are ok and have access to the resources they need. We are posting a daily "joke of the day" and a Harlem Wizard's exercise video two days a week to keep students' spirits up! We are also in the midst of working with community agencies to provide additional educational and practical resources for our students during the summer.

Since our fundraising efforts had to stop when COVID hit, we have been busy writing grants to secure much-needed funds while brainstorming some exciting new revenue-generating ideas for the summer and/or fall. We have also been diligently working on updating our website and hope to have the new version up and going in the next couple of weeks.

We appreciate our community's patience and support. Our thoughts and prayers are with our kids and their families, and with our local businesses, non-profits, and frontline workers!



Reed Notario waves "hi" to Michelle from outside The Vault.

### Combatting the Culture of Isolation

With the current culture of isolation, cyberbullying, economic struggles, and lack of adult role models, depression and suicide rates among teens in DeWitt County are staggering.

- 34% of 8th graders struggle with depression
- 22% of 10th graders have considered suicide
- 53% of 12th graders report use of illegal substance

*Statistics from the 2018 Illinois Youth Survey*

**We are combatting these statistics by serving 120-150 students per week and giving them a safe place to hang out with friends; build relationships with adult mentors; participate in programs and classes that teach life, leadership, and employment skills; develop personal responsibility; grow spiritually; and give back to the community through community service projects.**



Our 2019-2020 Student Leadership Team



# First Quarter Highlights

## January



Jr. High students holding their keys after reciting the Kindness Pledge.



### Kindness Campaign

In January, after the tragic suicide of a Clinton 5th grader, The Vault initiated a Kindness Campaign to encourage our students and our community to focus on *intentional kindness*. A daily Kindness Challenge was posted on social media and many of our students took the Kindness Pledge. These students received a key to put on their lockers and backpacks which let other students know that Vault students are there to help.

### Service Project: Handwarmers for the Homeless

Part of our mission is to provide opportunities for our students to give back to the community through community service projects. Once a month we hold a “serve day” where students gather at The Vault or offsite to complete a service project for individuals or organizations in our community. In January, Paula Lopatic from the Warner Library taught students how to make handwarmers which were distributed to a homeless shelter in Decatur. While making the handwarmers, a homeless man actually came to The Vault, and the students were able to bless him with some food and a handwarmer!



Paula Lopatic works with mentor, Mike Taylor, in helping students make handwarmers for the homeless.

## February



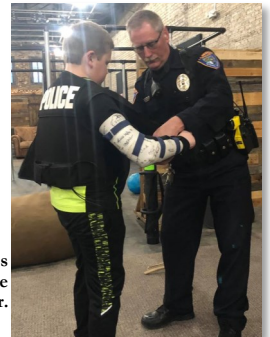
Clinton teen band, *From Within*

### Rock at 802: Community Concert

In February, we hosted our first-ever Community Night Concert called “Rock at 802” featuring a rock band from Decatur, *Ope! Sorry.* and a local teen band, *From Within*. It was a great community event with approximately 180 people in attendance. In addition to the concert, we also invited talented local artists to display their artwork.

### Envision U Class: Law Enforcement

In February, we also continued our Envision U enrichment classes which featured officers from Clinton and Bloomington who taught classes on law enforcement and forensic science.



Officer Mike Bennett gives Shane Harvey a chance to try on some police gear.

## March



Zach McCall leads a “What Matters” discussion.

### “What Matters” Discussion Group

In March, our “What Matters” group, led by mentor Zach McCall, was well-attended and gave our students a chance to discuss challenges they face in their lives. We hope the discussions about relationships, identity, God, friendship, and faith were helpful — especially now as they walk through this difficult season of COVID-19!

### Giant Pac-Man

Giant Pac-Man was a big hit in March! We cleared out the first floor and created a live Pac-Man game complete with a giant maze to navigate, paper dots to gobble up, and live ghosts to avoid!



Libby Bateson plays the computer version of Pac-Man while other Vault students re-enact a real life version!

## Making an Impact

*“The Vault has helped me to become a better me. I feel like I have a second family here. If The Vault wasn’t here, I would still be struggling with depression and low self-esteem.”* - CHS senior

Through the generous support of our donors, volunteers, mentors, and community partner agencies, we are making an impact! Working together, we are able to offer every teen in our community the following resources and opportunities:

- Free tutoring
- Business and leadership training
- Work experience in the Golden Gears Café
- Crisis resources and referrals
- Educational and enrichment classes
- Summer career camps/free 4-H membership
- Art and art therapy classes
- Access to all Vault recreational activities
- Community service opportunities
- "What Matters" discussion groups
- Free snacks at the Golden Gears Café
- Access to The Vault's Benevolence Fund to meet needs such as food or clothing



*Thank You!*

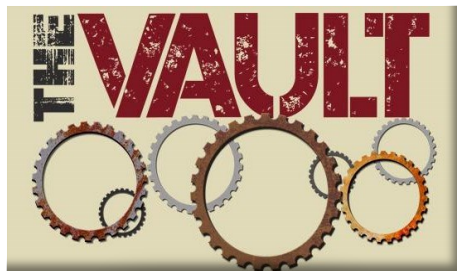
### Student Spotlight

*“I always look forward to volunteering at The Vault. Being able to help on Junior High nights gives me the opportunity to connect with the junior high kids and be that person I wished I had had to talk to. The Vault gives me the chance to really feel like I’m part of our community.”*

From Eli Cooper, Clinton High School Freshman

### Mentor Spotlight

Cindy Pumphrey is a retired medical technologist and serves as one of our front desk mentors. You will find her on Mondays cheerfully greeting students, checking them in, and monitoring the evening’s activities. Cindy recently told us, *“My life has been enriched by getting to know these sweet kids and seeing them grow and change is more than one could ask for.”*



*A place where...*  
**Every teen is welcomed.**  
**Every teen is valued.**  
**Every teen is WORTH IT!**



### Our 2020 Wish List

#### Games

Laser Tag Sets (for 12-16 players)  
Rock Band drums  
PS2 Guitar Hero guitars

#### Cleaning Products

Toilet bowl cleaner  
Stainless steel cleaner

#### Paper Products

Paper towels/Kleenexes  
Everyday napkins (white)  
Coffee stir sticks

#### Building Needs

Professional cleaning  
Window washing

#### Miscellaneous

Bottled water  
Prizes for prize vault  
Gift cards (Sam's, DQ, Amazon, Save-a-Lot, IGA, Ace Hardware, Clintonia Eagle Theatre)

#### Our Board

Ann Anderson, *President*      Bryce Lynch, *Vice President*  
Connie Unruh, *Treasurer*      Sally White, *Secretary*  
Ginny Carter    Josh Maxwell    Rob Spickard    Jerry Wayne    Tammy Wilson

#### Our Staff

Michelle Witzke      Tammy Wilson      Wendy DeMent  
*Founder & Program Director*      *Executive Director*      *Bookkeeper*  
thevaultprograms@gmail.com      thevaultclinton@gmail.com      wsdement@me.com



# THANK YOU TO OUR 2020 PARTNERS!

## ONE-TIME PARTNERS

### **\$1,000 - \$5,000**

State Bank of Lincoln  
Tradewind Energy  
Wapella Christian Church  
Norman and Rachel Emery

### **\$501 - \$1,000**

Kiwanis  
Best Buy  
John and Tammy Rodgers  
Pivot Point Services  
United Methodist Church

### **\$101 - \$500**

Clinton Presbyterian Church  
St. John's Parish  
Judy Howdyshell  
Dee Milanski  
Linda Taylor  
Jack and Debbie Maple  
Paul and Chrissy McGhee  
Edward Jones, Alec Martin  
Hunter Kennedy  
Matthew and Tracy Love

### **\$51 - \$100**

Clinton Family Dental  
Donna Bishop  
Mike and Susan Simonton  
Kathe Parrish  
Karen Aughenbaugh  
David and Cheryle Taylor  
CJHS Leaders' Club  
Marilyn Fugate  
Clinton Girl's Track Team  
Terry and Sharon Ijams

### **\$10 - \$50**

Steven Rigney  
Walker Tire

## MONTHLY PARTNERS

### **\$200+/mo.**

First Christian Church  
Randy and Nancy Martin  
Mark and Michelle Witzke

### **\$100/mo.**

Jason Frantz, State Farm  
Randy and Ann Anderson

### **\$50/mo.**

Norman and Rachel Emery  
Bret and Allison Hitchings  
Scott and Tammy Marsh  
Greg and Linda Lux  
Schick Farms  
Cynthia Clayton  
Samuel and Mykenzie Green

### **\$20 - \$30/mo.**

Melinda Decker  
Richard and Margie Gehres  
Barb and Allen Trago  
Covenant Animal Clinic  
Lori Steward  
Ryan and Leann Sosaman  
Gage and Rachel Lyons  
Cindy Pumphrey  
Tim Burke  
Daniel and Jayme Bugner  
Jody and Tiffany Scott  
Travis and Michelle Wikoff

### **\$10 - \$15/mo.**

Pat Glynn  
Ryder and Morgan Mills  
Greg and Marla Taylor  
Greg Ward  
Tracey Wolff  
William and Jacqueline Burton  
Teal Walker  
Leslie Creager  
Rev. Joy Cyrulik