

Director's Update

Whew!

Goodness! What a year this has been! Anybody with me on chalking this one up to the history books and moving on?

Since March we have done our best, like everyone else, to navigate through a very challenging situation. Our fundraising efforts came to an abrupt halt in the spring, so we had to come up with some creative ideas to try to meet our revenue goals.

One such idea was our Summer Grub 'n Go! We served delicious homemade meals for only \$5.00 throughout the summer, and the community came out in droves! Through the generous support of local businesses, community groups, churches, and individuals, Grub 'n Go was a huge success!

In this issue:

- Director's Update
- Who We Are
- Past Months' Highlights
- Making an Impact
- Our 2020 Partners
- Our 2021 Wish List



Marc Rogers, our very first customer, holds Bacon Mac 'n Cheese. YUM!



Jason Frantz from State Farm -- one of the many local business owners who supported Grub 'n Go.



Boy Scout Troop 1142 helped to prepare and serve food.



Area churches like the Clinton Assembly of God helped to buy, prepare, and serve the day's lunch.

Thank you to all of our Grub 'n Go sponsors!

Clinton Assembly of God; Lane Christian Church; St. Patrick's Church; Debra Kay & Ken Toohill; Ginny Carter and Youth Initiative; The Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts; Lisa Lueras; Melinda Decker; Jessi Scott; Ken & Susan Klein; Rob & Rachelle Spickard; The Koritz Family; The Schick Family; The Cooper Family; The Wismer Family; The Rexshell Family; The Wikoff Family; Covenant Animal Clinic; Alisa's Dog Grooming; Top Notch Lawn Care; Don McClure, Farmers Insurance

Thankfully, we were also able to have student hangouts at The Vault throughout the summer. We were able to restart our regular programming, events, and services in September, and we hit the road running! In addition to our crisis support services, tutoring and homework help, and regular hangouts for junior high and high school students which includes fun activities like tournaments, karaoke nights, laser tag, free food Fridays, etc., we also expanded our program offerings. These include an apprenticeship program, a new student ambassador program, an entrepreneur club, and a game master's club.

Though we have recently had to limit our programming due to COVID, we are excited to begin the new year with fresh hope (and energy!) to continue to meet the needs of our DeWitt County teens and make a positive difference in their lives and their futures! We hope you enjoy this issue of *News from The Vault!*

-- Tammy Wilson, Executive Director

WHO WE ARE

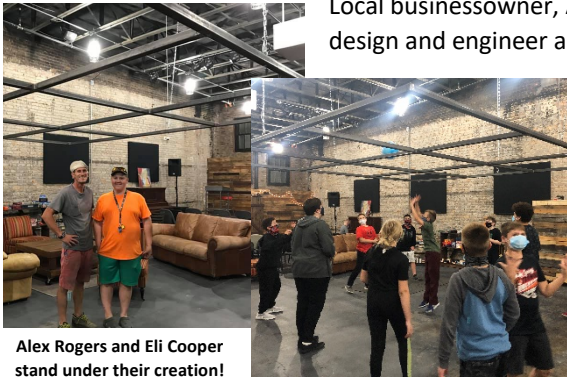
The Vault is a teen center in the heart of Central Illinois with a mission to help teens recognize their value, realize their potential, and reach their goals.

With a facility of over 10,000 sq. feet, we offer a fun and safe environment where teens can hang out with friends; build relationships with adult mentors; participate in programs, clubs, and classes to enrich their futures; take part in community service projects; and learn business and leadership skills through our student-run café and student leadership teams.



Our 2020-2021 Student Ambassadors with Adult Sponsors, Ben Pertl and Wendy West.

Highlights: September - October



Alex Rogers and Eli Cooper stand under their creation!

Local businessowner, Alex Rogers, and Vault student, Eli Cooper, worked for over 18 hours to design and engineer a suspended 9-Square grid so that we could offer 9-Square as a regular event!

We believe that this is the *first-ever* suspended 9-Square anywhere in the world! We are so grateful for men in our community like Alex who give their talents, their time, and their resources to make The Vault an amazing place for our teens!

Our Vault students are loving it!



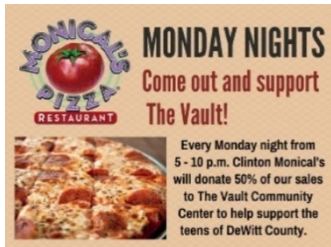
Ann Anderson teaches Zoe to ride.

Our Animal Career Apprenticeship Program kicked off in September. Five students were accepted into the program and began their first of many rotations in gaining knowledge and experience in animal career fields.



Mykenzie learns how to lead a horse.

This first rotation involved visiting horse farms in the area to learn how to handle, ride, and care for horses from experienced horse owners, trainers, and riders. A big thank you goes out to Ann Anderson and Paula Nelson for sharing their knowledge and love of horses and exposing our students to some exciting career opportunities.



So this happened in September, as well -- another generous business owner, Randy Martin of Monical's Pizza Restaurant, graciously adopted The Vault and began giving us half of all their dine-in and take-out sales on Monday nights. Words cannot begin to express our gratitude! Thank you to Randy and all the Monical's staff.

This is an ongoing fundraiser, so please make Monday nights your pizza night and help support us!

September also kicked off our new Game Master's Club. Tuesday nights are Magic the Gathering, and Friday nights are Dungeons and Dragons. Mr. Svencner, Vice-Principal from Clinton High School frequently comes out to join the students which is so cool! They love it!



Mr. Svencner and the Game Master's Club



Connie Unruh teaching her BizTown students.

October continued with programs like BizTown, an entrepreneur club, led by Connie Unruh from First National Bank. Through this club, students learn finance and business skills such as what it takes to start a business, how to create a business plan, how to make a profit, and how to market a product. Students also learn basic financial skills like writing checks and balancing a checkbook.

October ended with a blast -- our Junior High Ghostly Gathering was a huge hit!



Winners of the Ghostly Gathering Costume Contest

Highlights: November

We started off November with a wonderful Community Service Day. There were 41 students who participated in several different projects: 1) Making fall decorations for our seniors at Liberty Village, 2) Decorating cookies and making cards for our first-responders at the Clinton Fire Department, the Clinton Police Department, and the DeWitt County EMS facility, and 3) Sanding two wooden chairs to be used here at The Vault.



Pastor Josh Gorrie and his merry band of sanders.



Pastor Mike Taylor and his group of cookie decorating artists ready to take cookies to our first-responders.

The students did a fantastic job, and we were so proud of them! Thanks to all our mentors who helped that day, as well!

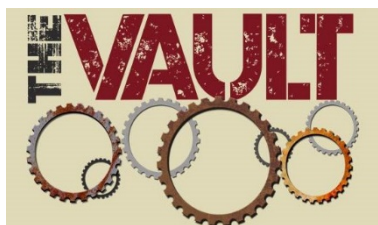
Friday, November 6, was the first night back for high school students after a 2-week quarantine from school. Our high schoolers were so happy to be back. We celebrated their return by throwing a Free Food Friday Flannel Chili Hoedown!!! So much fun!



Making an Impact

“The Vault has been such a blessing to our family. Thank you for all the time and energy you put into these kids every day. I have seen my son’s confidence boost a ton since he has been helping at The Vault.”
- Parent of a Vault student

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 and homework help
- Business and leadership training
- Work experience in the Golden Gears Café
- Mental health and crisis resources/referrals
- Enrichment classes and clubs
- Career apprenticeship program
- Art and art therapy classes
- Access to all Vault recreational activities
- Community service opportunities
- Free snacks at the Golden Gears Café
- Access to The Vault's Benevolence Fund to meet needs such as food and clothing

A place where...

Every teen is welcomed.

Every teen is valued.

Every teen is WORTH IT!

OUR 2020 PARTNERS

Thank you to our many generous commUNITY partners! Our one-time and monthly donors are listed below; however, there has been an outpouring of support from others who have given of their time, talents, and resources, as well. While there are too many to list here, we are grateful for ALL who have supported our mission!

MONTHLY PARTNERS

\$200+/mo.

First Christian Church
Brett & Allison Hitchings
Randy & Nancy Martin
Mark & Michelle Witzke

\$100/mo.

Anonymous
Randy & Ann Anderson
Jason Frantz, State Farm

\$50/mo.

Coffee Corner
Cynthia Clayton
Rachel Emery
Samuel & Mykenzie Green
Greg & Linda Lux
Scott & Tammy Marsh
Schick Farms

\$20 - \$30/mo.

Anonymous
Covenant Animal Clinic
Daniel & Jayme Bugner
Tim Burke
Melinda Decker
Richard & Margie Gehres
Robyn Gray
David & Tammy Hoffman
Ijams Family Trust
Gage & Rachel Lyons
Cindy Pumphrey
Jody & Tiffany Scott
Ryan & Leann Sosaman
Lori Steward
Barb & Allen Trago
Connie Unruh
Travis & Michelle Wikoff

\$10 - \$15/mo.

Anonymous
Wm. & Jacqueline Burton
Leslie Creager
Rev. Joy Cyruulik
Pat Glynn
Ryder & Morgan Mills
Greg & Marla Taylor
Teal Walker
Greg Ward
Rick & Nancy Wikoff
Tracey Wolff

ONE-TIME PARTNERS

\$1,001 - \$5,000

Alta Farms
DeWitt Savings Bank
Norman & Rachel Emery
IL Prairie Community Fndn.
Rep. Dan Caulkins
State Bank of Lincoln
The Write Stuff
Tulsa Community Fndn.
WAND-TV
Wapella Christian Church
Stan & Sue Watkins

\$10,000

Anonymous
First National Bank

\$501 - \$1,000

Best Buy
Kiwanis
John & Tammy Rodgers
Pivot Point Services
James & Kay Summers
Taylor & Lynch
United Methodist Church

\$101 - \$500

Scott & Casey Brendler
Clinton Presbyterian Church
Judith Coffey
Lucretia Crawford
Decatur Bldg. & Constr.
Edward Jones, Alec Martin
Judy Fisher
Jason Frantz, State Farm
Judy Howdysshell
Hunter Kennedy
Melissa Kitts
Jack & Debbie Maple
Paul & Chrissy McGhee
Dee Milanski
Samuel & Katherine Nichols
Kim O'Donohue
Marc Rogers
Ida Rueger
St. John's Parish
Linda Taylor

\$51 - \$100

Anonymous
Karen Aughenbaugh
Kent & Sharon Bangert
Donna Bishop
CJHS Leaders' Club
Clinton Family Dental
Clinton Girl's Track Team
Teresa & Martin Duncan
Marilyn Fugate
Curtis & Vickie Harbach
Terry & Sharon Ijams
D. Ann Jones
Shannon Jones
Matthew & Tracy Love
McKegan Morgan
Ted & Sandra Morris
Bridget Nimmo
Kathe Parrish
Earl & Linda Pattington
Michael & Linda Reandeau
Richard & Joan Schneider
Mike & Susan Simonton
Edna May Sprague
David & Cheryle Taylor

\$10 - \$50

Anonymous
Dennis & Carol Bray
Jackalie Blue
James & Michelle Burns
Mike Chapman
Mary Dulany
Ronald & Karen Ferguson
Wes & Andrea Graves
Patrick, Jr. & Connie Hall
John & Candi Heap
R.W. Hill
Sara Jenkins-Smith
Dennis & Kathy Madix
James Moberly
Duane & Mary Jo Moser
Bill & Mary Murphy
John & Kelly Pine
Harland & Barbara Powers
Stephanie Preston
Steven Rigney
Sarah Robinson
Spring Sloat
Dennis & Janet Streight
Sunset Inn & Suites
Harry & Deb Tilly
Kate & Jordan Umbra
Ryan & Audra Utterback
Walker Tire
Ellen West

Our 2021 Wish List

Building Needs

Window washing service
Menard's gift card (for faucet)
Menard's gift card (for concrete stain)
Ace Hardware gift cards
I-pad for check-in system

Games and Game Supplies

Official 9-Square balls
Balls for Foosball
Legend of Zelda and Wind Worker
Muffin Time

Art Supplies

Acrylic paint and brushes
Foam poster board
Dry erase markers

Paper Products

Paper towels
Toilet paper
White napkins (everyday)
Trash bags (5 gal.)
Trash bags (30 gal.)

Cleaning Products

Disinfectant wipes/spray
Stainless steel cleaner

Miscellaneous

Hand Sanitizer
Bottled water
Prizes for prize vault
K-cups for Keurig
Snacks (individually wrapped)
Gift cards (Sam's, DQ, Amazon, etc.)
Step stool or 6' ladder

Our Board

Ann Anderson, *President* Bryce Lynch, *Vice President*

Connie Unruh, *Treasurer* Sally White, *Secretary*

Ginny Carter Jim Peck Rob Spickard Jerry Wayne Tammy Wilson

Our Staff

Michelle Witzke

Founder & Program Director

programdirector@thevaultclinton.com

Tammy Wilson

Executive Director

executivedirector@thevaultclinton.com

Wendy DeMent

Bookkeeper

bookkeeper@thevaultclinton.com