



NEWS FROM THE VAULT

Winter, 2022 Vol. 3, Issue 4



Members of the First Christian Church take a break during a serve day at The Vault. They helped us finish two projects and even bought all the supplies!

Ryan enjoys a Fruity Pebbles milkshake with a healthy addition of bananas (lol) from our Golden Gears Cafe. Through a grant from the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation, the cafe is able to offer low-cost food, drinks, and desserts to all Vault students.



As we approach the final month of 2022, I would be remiss if I did not thank our staff, mentors, volunteers, board members, and community for their unwavering support during this past year. There is not a week that goes by that I don't think about how much this place has impacted (and continues to impact) not only the lives of our teens but our community, as well. We have visitors who come by weekly and can't believe what an amazing facility we have. Almost everyone who tours The Vault makes a comment like, "I wish we had something like this in our town," or "I wish we would have had something like this when I was a teen -- I wouldn't have gotten into so much trouble if we had had a cool place like this to hang out!"

It is truly a blessing to have The Vault in Clinton! As a staff, we are committed each and every day to do our very best to meet the needs of our students. Our goal is to make sure that every teen who walks through our doors knows that they are loved and valued, and that their life has meaning, purpose, and great potential!

Tammy Wilson, Executive Director

This Issue's Focus: After Hours

I recently sat down with our Program Director, Jason Kitson, to talk with him about The Vault's After Hours Program. Here is a synopsis of our discussion.

What is "After Hours" and what is its purpose?

After Hours is a weekly program that offers enrichment classes on Mondays and Tuesdays after regular hangout time. These classes provide a variety of educational and experiential opportunities that align with The Vault's goals to develop well-rounded students.

How many After Hours programs do you offer per month?

On average we provide sixteen different programs each month. These programs vary from 1-week to 4-week programs covering a variety of experiences from cooking to robotics, sewing to self-defense, and conversational skills to car care.

Who teaches the classes?

Some classes are taught by Vault staff, but most classes are taught by local community individuals, leaders, teachers, and partners who share their professional talents and experiences.

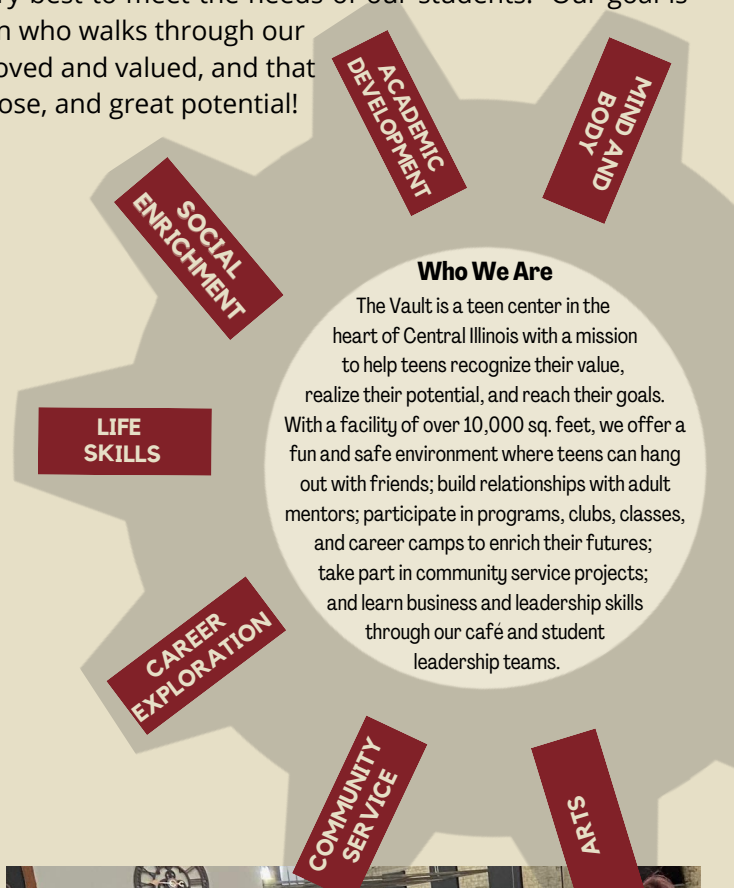
Can you highlight one of the classes for next semester?

Yes! Through a generous grant from The Write Stuff, we are able to offer a new class called "Culinary Arts Life Skills" where students are taught how to make different dishes each week. After the class, they get to eat the dish that was prepared. We love this concept -- feeding our students' minds and stomachs!

What impact are you seeing in the students?

Every week our teens are being challenged to try and learn something new. During a 2-4 week program, we see confidence develop as they begin to take ownership of what they are learning. It's exciting to see our students growing in all different areas of life!

See next page for more pictures of our After Hours Enrichment Classes!



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, classes, and career camps to enrich their futures; take part in community service projects; and learn business and leadership skills through our café and student leadership teams.



Del Naxi teaches students how to make authentic Mexican enchiladas during a recent Culinary Arts After Hours Enrichment Class where students learn how to make different dishes from around the world.

Program Highlights: September – November



During Community Serve Day, our students had the opportunity to help paint signs for the Battlecross Crusaders to honor our fallen soldiers.



The Earle girls toting (literally) their winning pot of chili during a Friday night HS Chili Cookoff.



Cafe Student Manager, Carter Bugner (the immensely happy one), and Alex Kreoger, recent "Cafe Volunteer of the Month" pose for a picture in our amazing Golden Gears Cafe!

AFTER HOURS CLASSES



Sewing with Kathy Merrick



Self-Defense with Sensei Lowe



Cool science with cool Mr. Baldwin

HALLOWEEN EVENT AND COSTUME CONTEST



Some of our Student Ambassadors display their scare skills in their originally created "Scares Downstairs." The event was a huge success thanks to our group of student leaders who took their scare jobs very seriously.



Our Student Ambassador Program is a leadership program for students who pledge to represent The Vault and what it stands for amongst their peers and within the community. They strive to walk with integrity and compassion as a powerful force for good, to stand up for the powerless, and to help the hurting by showing them they are not alone and have value and purpose.



Lots of fun costumes showed up at the Junior High Halloween Event and Costume Contest.

But, ultimately, Sumo Wrestler, Duke, and Countess Dracula, Andie (above) prevailed as the Costume Contest Winners!

SUPPORT FOR THE VAULT



If you are looking for a place to make an end-of-the-year donation, please consider The Vault!

We are a 501c3 and depend completely on grants and donations from individuals, businesses, churches, and community organizations to fund our mission. With this support, we can offer free programs and services to teens in 6th - 12th grades.

We are currently serving over 200 teens per week and would appreciate your help!

Your generous donation, no matter how big or small, will help to support a DeWitt County teen!

Please use the enclosed form to send in your tax-deductible donation.

NOTE: All donations must be postmarked by December 31st.

Mentor's Corner



Mentors are a huge part of The Vault's success, and we are grateful for each and every one of them! The quote on our quote board in this picture perfectly captures the goal of our mentors: "WHEREVER THERE IS A HUMAN BEING, THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A KINDNESS."

Lynn Norris, a retired Clinton High School math teacher, is one of our SUPER mentors who also tutors students needing math help.

What's Coming Up?



BIZTOWN BAKE SALE + BAZAAR

Be part of CommUnity Christmas in Clinton, IL

**DECEMBER 3RD FROM 10AM-2PM
@ THE VAULT 802 N. SIDE SQ.**

- Locally made gifts
- Yummy baked goods
- Christmas fun!

Vendor booths are still available! Call 217-934-4003 to reserve yours!



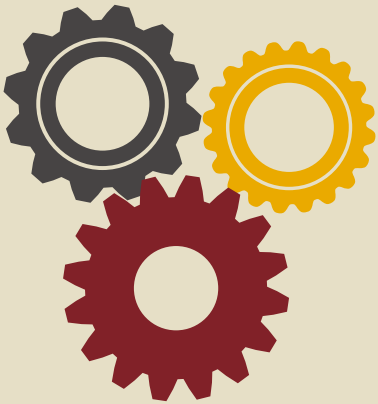


THE VAULT

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



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