

## Director's Update

### Goodbye Summer, Hello Fall!

Can't believe another summer has passed and another school year is upon us. While we are excited about the upcoming year, honestly, we are still basking in the accomplishments of the summer. Wow! So much to tell you!

During June, July, and August, we hosted Tuesday/Thursday Jr. High and High School Hangouts, Friday night High School Hangouts, opened our Golden Gears Cafe to our community every weekday, and served our amazing Taco Bowls every Tuesday.

However, the summer's main event was our Envision U Summer Career Camps! Thanks to generous donors, volunteers, and career professionals from around our community, we were able to offer five career camps giving our students a chance to learn about and gain skills in a variety of different career fields. These camps were free of charge and included Construction & Trades, Sewing, Culinary Arts, Mechanics & Engineering, and Creative Arts. How exciting to see our students working alongside mentors and professionals to learn skills that may lead them to a future career!

One extra-special summer blessing was the addition of our new Co-Program Directors, Jason and McKenna Kitson. They both have such a heart for teens, and they are full of fresh and fun program ideas for the upcoming year. Michelle's role has now changed to a volunteer position as Community Connections Coordinator. In this role, she will focus more on extending support to our students' families and strengthening community relationships.

*Tammy Wilson, Executive Director*



Co-Program Directors,  
Jason and McKenna Kitson  
We welcome them to our community!



Daisy, our Vault Comfort Dog (in training) poses in front of a basket full of snacks. We are able to offer these snacks free of charge through our donor-supported Benevolence Fund and from individuals who graciously donate individually-bagged snacks throughout the year.

*If you would like to donate snacks or drinks, please give us a call at 217-934-4003.*

And by the way, Daisy did NOT try to eat any of the snacks.  
What a good dog!



Our Fourth Annual Vault Leaders Olympics took place in July and for the first time ever, the STUDENTS get bragging rights for beating the adults! We were also able to celebrate a successful school year and recognize our faithful volunteers and outstanding student ambassadors. Our staff-selected Golden Gears Leadership Awards went to Maddi Leonard (JH) and Kaitlin Burton (HS). Our student-nominated Spencer Toohill Legacy Awards went to Maddi Leonard (JH) and Ady Maple (HS).

### 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 apprenticeships 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.*



## Highlights: June - August

The Vault offers a variety of free programs and services to meet the needs of our teens and their families as well as our community. Here is a list of what we offer as well as some of our summer highlights!

- Free tutoring and homework help
- Business/leadership training and work experience in the Golden Gears Café
- Mental health & crisis resources/referrals
- Enrichment classes and clubs
- Student Ambassador Program
- Animal Careers Apprenticeship Program
- Summer Career Camps
- 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
- Grief support groups for teens and adults



With the help of Greg Mauer, Danny Bundy, and Jim Brady, our students spent two full weeks of hands-on instruction in our Construction and Trades Camp. They built a beautiful "She-Shed" and a totally decked out doghouse!

During the camp, students learned about construction, welding, painting, electrical, plumbing, and how to persevere in very uncomfortable conditions. (The weather was HOT!) Thanks to all who helped make this camp possible – what an experience!



Lainey makes raspberry shortbread bars during our week-long Culinary Arts Camp. A shout out to Pastor/Chef Paul Stroup and Connie Unruh who created a culinary curriculum which included basic cooking and chopping skills, business and marketing skills, and presentations about potential culinary career paths. The students made their own culinary creations for lunch each day and spent two days baking goodies to sell for Summer Saturday on the Square. **YUM!**



Dan Loveless teaches students about mechanics and small engines during our Mechanics and Engineering Camp. Students got hands-on experience working on cars, rototillers, and go-karts and also got to visit Baum Chevrolet and Anderson Ford to learn about the car service/sales industry.



Kaylynne works on her stitching skills while Brooklyn works on her sewing machine skills during our week-long Sewing Camp. With the help of Kathy Merrick, the Salt Creek Patchmakers, and local seamstresses, the students completed multiple sewing projects which included headbands, doggie bandanas, pillowcases, zipper bags, and rice neck wraps.





A big thank-you to Tractor Supply who generously donated two go-karts!







Our Tuesday/Thursday 10-week Creative Arts Camp was a huge hit! Each week, students created projects using different art mediums which included photography, macrame, oil painting, glass painting, watercolor, charcoal and pastels, pencil drawing, tattoo art, mosaic, clay, cross stitch, and t-shirt designs. Thanks to local artisans (flat-out unbelievably gifted human beings) who gave their time to teach our students and share their amazing talents! A special shout out to Joetta Wiesemann who spent countless hours in helping to make this camp a success! ❤️

**Thank You to our Summer Career Camps Lunch Sponsors!**

Jim and Kim Brady  
Clinton Presbyterian Church  
Joni Newberg and her Bridge Buddies  
Little Caesars Pizza  
Neighborhood Care Center  
Joyce Shofner (in memory of Dan Shofner)  
Clinton High School Class of 2021

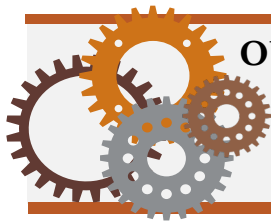



**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS**

## Making an Impact



We want to honor Danny Bundy, one of our most beloved volunteers who recently passed away. With his generous and pure heart, he did whatever he could to help different people and organizations in our community—including The Vault. He never wanted recognition for his service which included building the tables in our Golden Gears Café, installing our mini bowling alley, and most recently helping with our Construction & Trades Camp. Danny was a kind, faithful, and humble servant and will be greatly missed. His memory will be forever treasured at The Vault!



## OUR 2021 PARTNERS

We are blessed to publish this list of our generous one-time and monthly donors who faithfully give year after year! We simply could not do this work without each and every one of you!

*Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!!!!*

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\*\* Denotes \$2,500+

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 Jim Peck  
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 Tammy Wilson

### Our Staff

Michelle Witzke  
*Founder & Community Connections Coordinator*  
 Tammy Wilson  
*Executive Director*  
 Jason and McKenna Kitson  
*Co-Program Directors*  
 Wendy DeMent  
*Bookkeeper*