

Director's Update

Welcome 2021!

Can you believe how fast the first quarter of 2021 has gone? They say as you get older, time goes faster, but I'm not even going there. =)

Well, we hit the ground running in January with implementing our 2021 vision: to reach our teens and their families in more meaningful and practical ways. Over the past three months, we have helped families with meals; engaged in great face-to-face (or should I say mask-to-mask?) conversations with our teens through our *Voices of Gen Z: Question of the Week*; given crisis resources to hurting teens and parents; started a Grief Support Group for parents who have lost children; and continued to provide our teens with amazing programs, enrichment classes, clubs, and fun events.

Although we are living in very challenging times, we believe that The Vault is here as a source of refuge, help, and unity not only for our teens, but for our community! Life is precious and goes by so quickly -- we want to do all we can to bring joy and hope to our teens, our families, and our community. And as my dad used to say, "Life is short; smile while you still have teeth." -- Tammy Wilson, Executive Director



Dynasti holds her puzzle picture frame made in one of The Vault's amazing art classes.



Gearing Up!

As you walk into The Vault, you will see this very cool display created by our Marketing Assistant, Brooke Ernst. Thank you, Brooke! This is part of our 2021 fundraising, and we need your help!

**Please
TAKE A GEAR and SUPPORT THE VAULT!**

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.



Merci, Myranda, and Avery, three of our Golden Gears Café student workers, are part of our Golden Gears Small Business Leadership Program. This program is made possible through a grant from the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation.

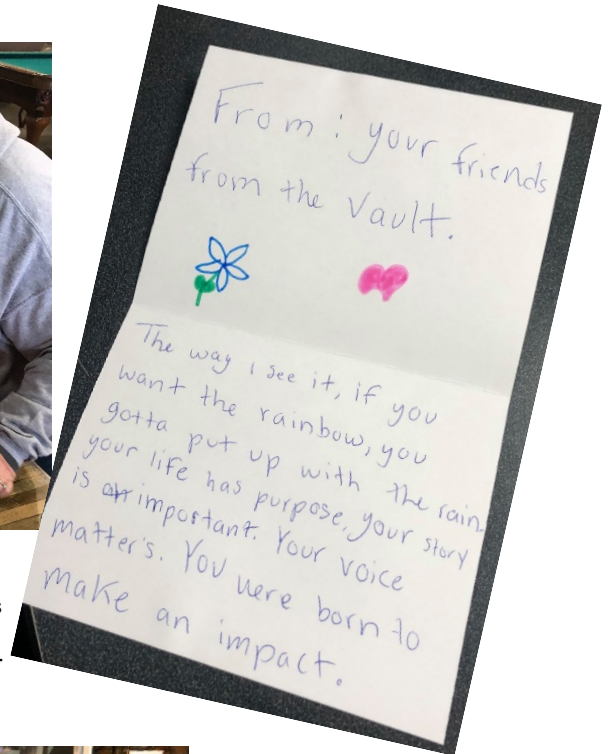
Highlights: January - March

The Vault offers a variety of programs and services to meet the needs of our teens and their families as well as our community. Here are some of our spring 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
- 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
- Gift certificates



Mentor Joetta works with Lexi to make gaitors for the homeless during our January's Community Serve Day. We delivered the gaitors to God's Shelter of Love in Decatur. Each gaitor included a sweet note written by our students to encourage each recipient.



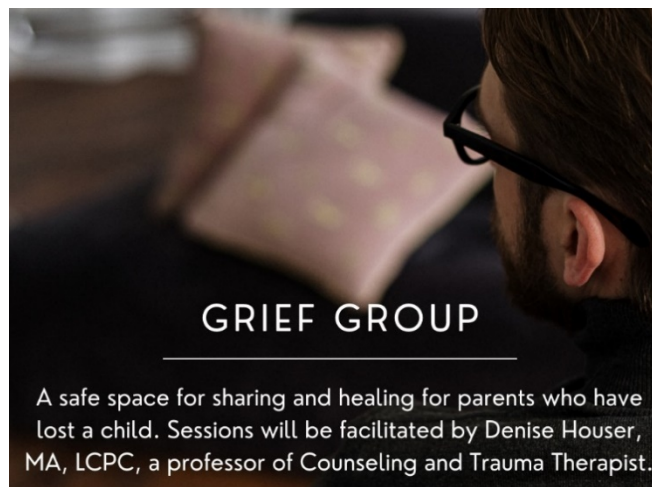
Our Student Ambassador program is a leadership program where students pledge to be positive role models at The Vault, at school, and in the community. Student Ambassadors are required to attend Vault activities at least twice per month, help with at least one event per month, and attend a monthly Student Ambassador meeting which involves training in leadership skills, time management, and team building.

Shown is one of our current Student Ambassadors, Chyneah, along with Savannah and Mia who all helped with our recent Bingo Night.



Student-led classes are encouraged at The Vault! We want students to be able to share their talents as well as gain experience in teaching and public speaking skills.

In January, our students participated in a karate class taught by Karalyne, a junior high student, who taught a variety of karate poses and techniques. She did a fantastic job!



In an effort to help those in our community who are hurting from the loss of a child, we started a Grief Support Group that meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month at 6:30 p.m. The group is open so any parent who has lost a child is welcome.



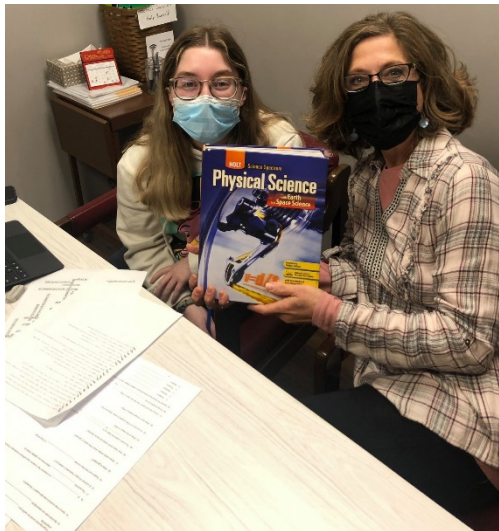
DON'T FORGET THE FUN!

The Vault offers fun events throughout the month for both high school and junior high.

Pictured above is Kye and ? during Junior High Superhero Night.



We're thankful for David, Jennifer, Rebecca, and Sharon from Pawprint Ministries for partnering with us and our Animal Careers Apprenticeship Program. Pictured (left) is Sharon demonstrating dog handling techniques, while (below) Kailea relaxes with Remington, the chilliest comfort dog ever.



Tammy, our Executive Director, poses with Avery after helping her with her science homework.

Tutoring and homework help is one of the support services offered by The Vault and is available after school Monday through Friday by appointment only. Students can set up an appointment by calling The Vault at 217-934-4003.



Robin, our mentor who leads the Yarn Mafia Club, shows Brooklyn some crocheting techniques.

Making an Impact



A place where...

Every teen is welcomed.

Every teen is valued.

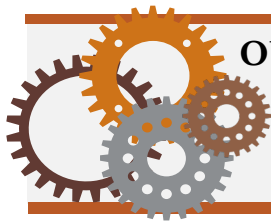
Every teen is WORTH IT!



“God give us things that delight us and others at the same time. The Vault is doing that for me.

I get so much joy in the students I'm working with, and I hope they get that same joy from me!”

- Joetta, Vault mentor and Viking princess



OUR 2021 PARTNERS

We have started off the year with donations from new one-time and monthly donors as well as donations from returning donors who faithfully give year after year! We could not do this work without each and every one of you! *Thank you!*

* Denotes \$500+

** Denotes \$2,500+

*** Denotes \$5,000+

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Note to our donors:

If you have given but do not see your name on this list, please let us know! Your donation may have been received after the printing of this newsletter, or we may have unintentionally missed it. We are in the process of updating to a new donor software system, and we are working through some glitches!

We appreciate your understanding.

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