



Our Vault Team -- what a great lookin' group, especially the fluffy one in the front row. (Not Michelle or Tammy -- the other one.)

Greetings from The Vault!

As always, we are excited to bring you another edition of our newsletter -- full of all the incredible programs and events from the past several months. We started off the year by being named Clinton Chamber of Commerce's "Non-Profit of the Year" for the second year in a row! Thank you to members of the Chamber for recognizing us and believing in our mission. In February, we hosted a mentor training for all of our volunteer mentors. These members of our community take time out of their busy schedules every week to volunteer here at The Vault -- building relationships with our teens; providing a listening ear, a voice of wisdom, and sometimes even a shoulder to cry on. We could not do this work without them, and we cannot thank them enough! And in April, under the leadership of our Fundraising Chair, Wendy DeMent, along with the creative assistance of our Marketing Director, McKenna Kitson, we hosted a hugely successful fundraiser by bringing the Harlem Wizards back to town. The event brought in over \$18,000 for The Vault! We are grateful to all of the businesses and individuals who sponsored the event and to our hardworking volunteers (including our Vault All-Stars, who were AMAZING)! And speaking of All-Stars...Who was the guy who made the epic half-court shot?! Oh, wait...it was none other than Bryce Lynch, our Board Vice-President! What a great night! Thank you to everyone who came out in support!

Tammy Wilson, Executive Director

Mentor Spotlight

Our mentors are the backbone of what we do. Each volunteer goes through an application process, a background check, initial mentor training, and ongoing training throughout the year. We have a ratio of 1:7 (mentors to students), so our students are always able to receive individualized attention. I recently asked some of our volunteers the two questions below. It is clear to see just how much they love our teens in their thoughtful and heartfelt responses.

Why did you decide to become a mentor?

- I wanted to help The Vault create a safe and fun environment for the kids.
- I love to talk with young people and encourage them to see things in a positive way.
- Because of the needs in our community; mentors were very important to me at that age.
- I want to make a difference in their lives; if we don't give them love, support, encouragement, direction, and positive reinforcement, they may never receive it otherwise.
- I wanted to care for and learn about the youth in the Clinton area.
- I enjoy spending time with teens; it's my favorite age after babies!
- I just retired and still wanted to be around kids.
- Getting to know their personalities is fun, and I love what The Vault is accomplishing!

What do you see as the most significant need/challenge in the lives of our teens today?

- They want to be loved; they want to know they are cared for and are important.
- Navigating social media, specifically cyberbullying and gossip
- Using social media without letting it take over their life or impact it negatively
- 24-7 screen time; how that can be a negative influence more often than a positive one
- Having as many positive influences from adults as possible
- Each teen has a different universe of needs, but at the foundation, being valued, appreciated, and unconditionally loved is always a part of those needs.
- Helping them to see and imagine that they have a future
- They want to be taken seriously and have someone listen without an agenda or prejudice.
- It is important for teens to have a "safe" person in their lives who will listen, encourage, and love them.
- Kids need a safe place to hang with friends.
- Teens need guidance and words of encouragement from members of their community.
- Kids need adults with whom they can connect, someone they can trust, someone they know cares about them and accepts them for who they are.



During one of our monthly Community Serve Days, mentors Richard, Dez, and Michelle assisted students in making blankets for Project Linus, an organization that distributes these blankets to children in need.



A group picture of the attendees at our recent mentor training. What a fantastic group of people, young and old alike! (We won't mention who is young and who is old.)

Highlights: February - May



Fencing Event Night
(Don't worry -- the swords are foam.
The most painful part of this event was having
to wear the goofy-looking onesie.)



Bob Ross Paint Night
(Not sure Bob would approve of the
"just-smear-the-paint-all-over-your-hand"
technique,
but it seemed to work for this student!)



Karaoke Night
A budding star just waiting
to be discovered!
Karaoke is always a hit!



Robotics Programming class with Isaiah Proctor



Culinary Arts class



Car Care with Scott Baum



Harlem Wizard's Night at Clinton High School



We have no words...



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Our Student Dog Handlers,
**Karalyne Peterson and
 Mason Stanek** are doing
 a great job in training and caring for
Daisy, our Vault comfort dog.
 She is responding well to their direction
 and loves them both --
 and we do, too!

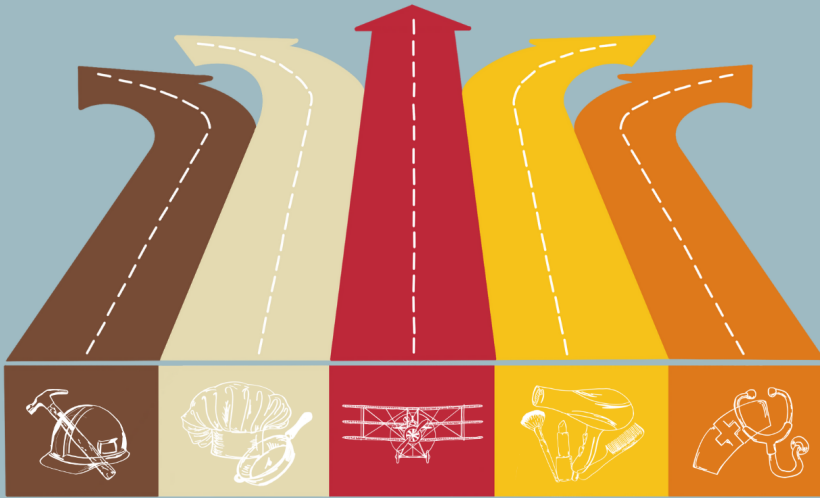


LOOKING AHEAD: SUMMER CAREER CAMPS

THIS SUMMER AT
THE VAULT

ENVISION U

SUMMER CAREER CAMPS



CONSTRUCTION & TRADES CAMP • JUNE 5-9 • 9AM-3PM

CULINARY ARTS CAMP • JUNE 12-16 • 9AM-1PM

AVIATION CAMP • JUNE 26-30 • 9AM-1PM

COSMETOLOGY CAMP • JULY 10-14 • 9AM-1PM

HEALTH CARE SERVICES CAMP • JULY 24-28 • 9AM-1PM

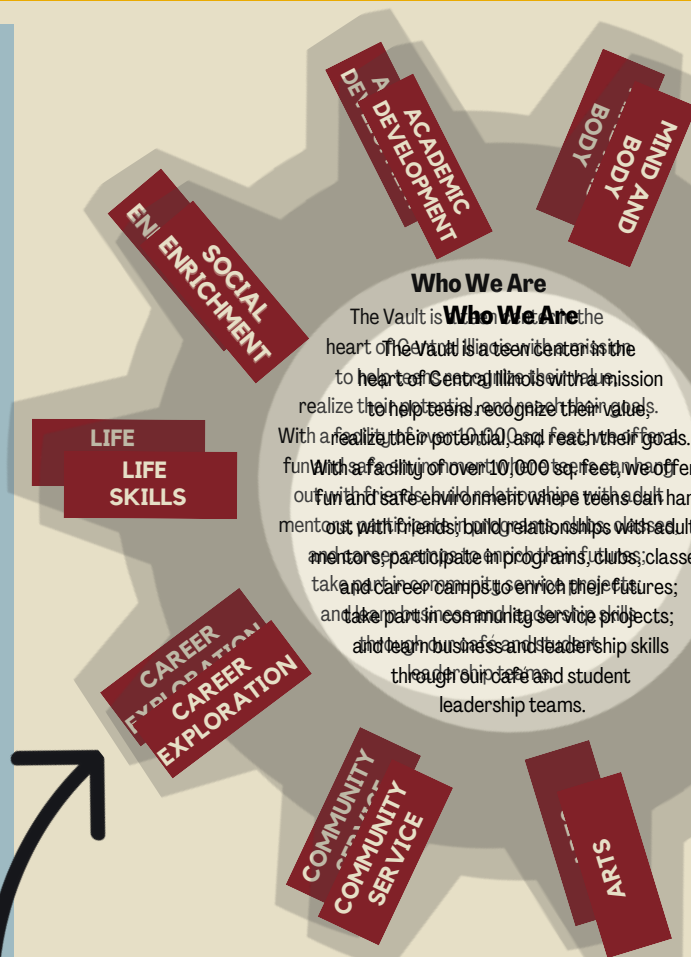
MONDAY-FRIDAY • ENTERING 7TH-12TH • AT THE VAULT

SIGN UP AT

WWW.THEVAULTCLINTON.ORG

OR CALL 217-934-4003

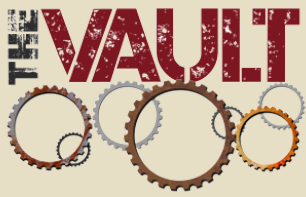
\$50 REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT REQUIRED TO HOLD YOUR SPOT



The gear image above expresses our goal to offer students a variety of opportunities to help them reach their full potential.

The different areas focus on life and learning skills that will help students as they grow into adulthood.

Our Summer Career Camps are designed to fulfill the area of "Career Exploration."



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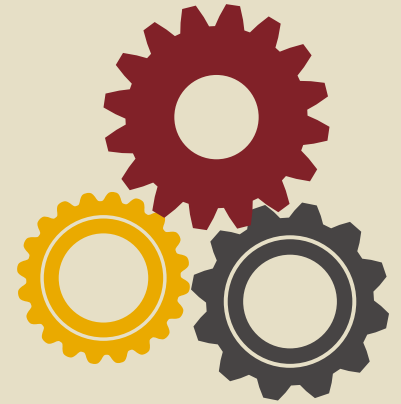
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Tammy Wilson, Executive Director
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McKenna Kitson, Marketing & Program Planning Director
Wendy DeMent, Administrative Assistant
Carter Bugner, Student Café Manager

VOLUNTEER STAFF

Michelle Witzke, Founder/Community Connections Coordinator

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

THE VAULT

