

Community in Action- Thank you Jack Astor's Ancaster

Third party fundraising events assist in supporting our many programs and services aimed at improving the lives of the children, youth and families we serve. Over the past 2 months Jack Astor's - Ancaster has coordinated 2 third-party events in support of Living Rock. The first being a carnival themed BBQ with a flare competition, that raised over \$1300. The second event was a Jack's VS Food Contest. In addition, Jack Astor's donated 10% of food sales on the evening of the contest. It is this kind of commitment and creativity in raising funds, that Living Rock needs to continue serving 900 meals a week.

Living Rock is most grateful to all those who wish to support the programs and services we offer. If you have any fundraising ideas, or for more information, please contact development@livingrock.ca.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Special Donations

72hrs for Life
Leading up to World Suicide Prevention Day
Sept. 8-10, 2012

Professional Lunch / Open House
Life Long Learning Week Lunch
Thursday, Sept. 20, 2012 12 - 1:30pm

Living Rock 27th Anniversary Open House
Saturday, Nov. 17, 2012 2 - 5pm

United Way Campaign Celebration
Thursday, October 25, 2012 12 - 1:30pm

Soupfest 11
Wednesday February 6, 2013
Hamilton Convention Centre
Restaurant & Sponsorship Packages available NOW

In Honour of:
Aravind
Sara, Shane, Chloe & Lex VanBarneveld
John Mathes
Jules Gauthier

In Memory of:
Echo Rain

Gary Kristiansen

Jane Ackersviller
Josephine Perrier
Thomas Rennie

Received From:
Anonymous
Anonymous
Kerry Turcotte
Kerry Turcotte

Received From:
Ann Dion
Anthony Schuster
Living Rock Staff
Stephen McFall
William & Caryl Jones
Anonymous
Dave & Donna Siddall
Dawn Caillet
Robert & Elaine Russell
John & Dorothy MacDonald
Patricia Lynn Perrier
Alan & Karen Craig
Dave & Donna Siddall

"Meet The Street Urban Ministry Training"
BOOK A SPEAK, VIDEO OR MEET THE STREET
SERVICE PROJECT 905-528-7625 x224

Living Rock Ministries
30 Wilson St., Hamilton ON
L8R 1C5
Phone: 905-528-7625
CHARITABLE#: 88345 8812 RR0001
Check out Living Rock's New Website www.livingrock.ca

YOUR RIGHTS AS A DONOR

If at anytime you would like to change the amount of mail you receive from us, please contact the Development Team at 905-528-7625 x239, and we would be happy to comply with your request.

In addition, Living Rock Ministries assures its donors that personal information is not used for commercial purposes. We do not rent, sell, trade or share our donor information. Personal information is kept confidential and is used only to mail you information about our services.

Founded 1985 905-528-ROCK (7625) www.livingrock.ca Fall 2012

THE NEED IS NOW.

Last year Living Rock responded to more than 20,000 youth visits to the Gathering Chapel and Oasis Coffee House: Breakfast, Evening and Weekend Programs. The Rock offers a continuum of care ranging from meals, showers, clothing and housing support to equipping youth with life, employment skills, and a personal vision for their lives. It is a tremendous responsibility to provide 900 meals a week and life changing programming 7 days a week.

We simply cannot ignore the tremendous need that we witness in the lives of the youth that we serve.

While the vital role that the Rock plays in the lives of youth has not declined, the donations in this past year that enable us to do the work we are called to, has. This reality is due to a combination of the expected summer 'drop', compounded by a dramatic decrease in overall yearly giving. This trend has underlined an urgent need for additional donations.

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MEALS SERVED WEEKLY

20,000+ YEARLY YOUTH VISITS
TO OPEN ACCESS PROGRAMS



Director's Report

By: Alan Craig
Founder/Executive Director
Living Rock Ministries

Purchase your copy of The Living Rock;
Between Me & A Hard Place or the
Soupfest Collections Cookbook today!



This year, almost everyone has experienced economic hardships. Unfortunately the hardest hit were the already economically challenged; like the youth we serve. Living Rock has seen a dramatic shift in people's ability to give, and as a result we are faced with some difficult challenges and decisions in how we will deliver our services in the near future.

One thing I have learned over the 26 years of leading this Ministry is that our faith can be tested. To be upfront with you, there have been times in my life as Director of Living Rock when I have asked some hard questions. "How can we meet a need so great?" "How will we cover the bills?" "How can we do all that we feel called to, with the resources that we have?" I have asked these questions many times, and in those times I have been called over and over again to trust and put my faith in our Heavenly Father who provides for His children. I am reminded in these situations that Living Rock is not my ministry alone and that His purposes will be accomplished through Gods people. God has demonstrated His perfect love for the youth through the Rock time and time again. He has strengthened my faith with the generosity of His kingdom over and over again.

Those who share their time so freely, give financial gifts and pray for us, share equal partnership in this Ministry and we want to recognize that... *Thank You so much for your generosity. It is humbling to continue to ask for your support, but I will. We are willing to have meetings, to share the new Rock Report with you, schedule speaking engagements and tours. Can you stand with us again with a financial gift? We really need your help today.*



Youth celebrate diversity and culture at the Creativity Through Diversity Fashion Show

THE NEED IS NOW (Continued from front page)

The projected shortfall from September to December is \$184,000. Our team is working diligently to make cut backs where possible, in order to do our part. It is our priority now and always has been, to be good stewards with all of the resources entrusted to us. We truly understand the personal sacrifice people are making to sponsor the Rock. Apart from grants, the general budget provides staff wages and annual utility and building costs.

In the 26 year history, this is the first time Living Rock has put out an urgent appeal for funding.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Immediately: Today we are asking you to consider an Emergency Gift towards the 2012 shortfall. (see James 1:27 Campaign Article)

Ongoing: We are asking for you to please sign up for a monthly giving plan. Any amount is helpful, knowing that these donations are arriving on a regular basis allows us to budget accordingly.

"The Living Rock is one of Canada's leading organizations serving street-involved youth, and Al and Karen Craig and their team are truly dedicated and passionate about the youth and young adults of Hamilton. This is not an organization with a lot of overhead and bloated administration - it is driven by hard-working people who want to serve the youth, and by a loyal team of volunteers who share that vision." -Ken Bosveld, Volunteer Coordinator, Servicelink

YOUTH REMEMBER A FRIEND - by Karen Craig

On August 15th, Living Rock had the privilege of coordinating a Memorial and Candle Light Service to help youth process the loss of their friend, Echo Rain.



May 7, 1992 - August 7, 2012

I met Echo Rain when she made a submission for Arts of August a few years ago. As she came into Evening Program, she used to say "It's Taco Tuesday!" She was bright and loved to read the Hamilton Spectator at Breakfast Program. She advocated for Breakfast Program in a proposal sharing:

"Breakfast is awesome. It makes going to school easier."

One friend shared how she met Echo in school in Waterdown and they both ended up in Hamilton.

"She always had a smile on her face when I would see her."

She was described as beautiful, kind and much loved. She was creative and artistic with a vision to go to college for art. Again, I was reminded how critical programs and spiritual care is at Living Rock. The Rock is a place of expression and refuge for the youth community.

Echo Rain's family graciously shared a picture slideshow of Echo with the youth.

"Donations to the Living Rock; Hamilton in Echo Rain's memory gratefully accepted." -Hamilton Spectator

THE VALUE OF STRUCTURE

This loss of Echo makes me sensitive to the urgency of the need. In follow up, I called the couple that sponsored "Taco Tuesday" here at the Rock. I thanked them and shared about the testimony of Echo Rain and how much the youth value the consistent response. This couple volunteered in the past and saw the need firsthand.

Youth learn to value structure and depend on staff. Trust is built over time. Any changes in staffing and programs have a real impact on youth. This is why funding shortfalls are challenging.

Article By Karen Craig
Program Director /
Volunteer Coordinator
Living Rock Ministries

Thank you United Way
for helping to support
Oasis Coffee House
Evening & Weekend
Program.



James 1:27 Campaign

~on NOVEMBER 17TH Living Rock is turning 27 YEARS OLD~

"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world."

-James 1:27 NRSV

James 1:27 campaign is an appeal that will run through our entire 27th anniversary year. We would like to add the names of James 1:27 partners to the James 1:27 Display Wall, in order to celebrate the partnerships that allow us to carry out our calling through Living Rock Ministries. Each year we need to raise \$500,000 in donations, in order to carry vital programs and services to youth.

HOW CAN WE REACH OUR GOAL?

Commit to a pre-authorized \$27 monthly donation.
Would you partner with us through a special gift of \$27 per month?