



2021 Year End Recap!

The beginning of 2021 looked a little bit different for The Rock, but we are ending the year encouraged and excited for what 2022 has in store!

The facility had been closed due to COVID-19 for the majority of 2020, and by the beginning of April of 2021, it was decided it was time to reopen. Attendance was low or non-existent for a few weeks, as being open was only spread by word of mouth. Through prayer and obedience, I found my way back to The Rock at the end of May. By attendance and the condition, I knew there was a lot of work that had to be done to reach the current high school demographic and make it THE place they wanted to spend their weekends. This was going to be a big undertaking, but I knew God put me in this place at that time, so I believed things were going to happen.

Word travels fast in Graham America, and when a group of people have the same mission, things get done. During the last half of July, a student advisory board (8 members, 2 from each class) was formed and they held the first student board meeting. They discussed and started planning a fundraiser, workday, theme nights, and more. These students had either never been to The Rock or only attended a couple of times pre-COVID, so the fact that they bought in so fast to our purpose and mission - that we were here for them - was overwhelming.

Before school started we were able to get a few things checked off our to-do list during a workday weekend. We deep cleaned and painted nearly the whole inside of the building, had a garage sale and "buy a box" fundraiser (raised about \$3,500), got rid of broken furniture, and somehow completely filled a large rollout dumpster! Soon after, we got new carpet in the rail car, pool tables re-felted, got two new TV's, and got AC in the pool room! We still have other projects that need to be completed, but we are at the mercy of the supply chain or timing issues.

The current adult board was voted in in August, and we have hit the ground running. In addition to the four theme nights decided by the student board, we also hosted three 5th Quarters after home football games. These were so much fun, and by far the largest attendance nights at or above 90 students. Currently on average it is easy to say we have over 50 students coming on a Friday or Saturday night.

I wonder sometimes if I am involved in The Rock for "me" - am I doing this because I think I can help it succeed? Is this a pride thing because I can't let things go sometimes? God has proven and answered me time and time again that this is His plan and it could only be possible through his divine intervention. We have literally seen so many answered prayers, or scriptures will pop up at the right time - I need to write these God moments down because truly miraculous things are happening at The Rock. Every adult who helps out at The Rock is a volunteer spending their extra time with these students. We all are here because God called us to be here for your students.

The Rock is seeking financial support to cover its monthly operating expenses. It takes about \$2,400 per month to keep the doors open. We presently have monthly commitments of \$750 from local donors. You can donate online by clicking [here](#).

We appreciate all the contributions made to The Rock (Talk, Talent & Treasure as David likes to say) this year and hope that you would feel led to start or continue to support this ministry.

From the rock bottom of our hearts, we thank you again for your blessings,

Ashley Hodges
President

The Rock, Inc. ∞ P.O. Box 1101 ∞ Graham, Texas 76450

"From the end of the earth I call to you, when my heart is overwhelmed. Lead me to the Rock that is higher than I."

Psalms 61:2