

VOLUME XII • ISSUE 3

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IN BRIEF

CORRECT ADDRESS

PLEASE DO NOT USE OLD ENVELOPES WITH THE CLACKAMAS ADDRESS. THE POST OFFICE WILL NO LONGER FORWARD THEM. THANK YOU FOR USING OUR CORRECT ADDRESS!

Athlete visits Ranch

In August former Swiss World Cup snowboarder, avalanche safety advocate, and adventure reporter, Didier Opplinger, visited the ranch to learn how to teach character and leadership in his program for gifted mountain athletes. Didier shared how his pursuit of excellence and fame left him feeling even more isolated and alone and how God used circumstances and people to change his life.

Ride for PATCH

KTSY Christian Radio's Morning Host, Jerry Woods and Chaplain Brian Yeager will ride from Ontario, OR to Sun Valley, ID on October 15 – 19 to raise funds for PATCH. To sponsor them per mile or to donate any amount, call 208-459-5879. KTSY broadcasts from Caldwell, ID.



PATCH works!

Graduates respond to Jesus



We rejoice to report that two recent graduates acted upon their convictions to follow Jesus Christ and were baptized this past summer.

Cyrus's life is a living testimony at PATCH of the reality of God. It is an inspiration to witness a young man experiencing the presence of God. Cyrus believes that in this world, where others have often failed him, there is only One—Jesus Christ—in whom he can trust through thick and thin. His brother's recent conversion into the faith greatly

impacted Cyrus, who said, "When I saw how different his life was after following God, I realized I needed that life also."

Halle approached Anthony Thomsen, our Ranch Chaplain, with a request to be baptized. He asked why she wanted to take this step and her initial response was, "Because it will make my family happy." After five months of personal reflection Halle responded to the same question with, "I want to be baptized for me and my relationship with Christ. I realize I am not perfect and that this is the beginning of my journey." Halle now understands that both her earthly family, and her heavenly family, are elated that her decision will lead to eternal life one day!



Kids in Creation

The kids and staff had a wonderful and challenging time on our yearly backpack adventures. We traveled to the Sawtooth National Forest near Stanley, Idaho which is bordered by three mountain ranges with 40 peaks over 10,000 feet and 300 high lakes. Our days were filled with hiking, fishing and swimming at Alpine, Collie and Imogene Lakes.

Evening hours provided breathtaking views of a black night sky, thick with stellar beauty, which inspired "ooos" and "ahhhs" at the sight of a falling star. Spectacular sunrises and sunsets astonished and awed us. Appreciating the beauty and thoroughly enjoying the wilderness, the kids' attitudes seem to ascend to a higher level on these trips. They think and talk more about the creation around them, and the God who designed it.

Memories of these trips are priceless. It is a great time for the kids to relax and unwind. At some point on each trip you hear comments like, "I don't want to leave," or "I wish I could live up here."

Especially rewarding is how the kids smile when they are reminded that, in God's eyes, in all the beauty that surrounds them, they are the most beautiful of all.



PATCH receives letters from the heart

When we see positive changes in the young people in our care, we rejoice. When parents write us, expressing their gratitude, we are humbled and again, rejoice. We are thankful that the kids' hard work in school, in group therapy, and in other tasks and activities produce behaviors that give parents cause to rejoice.

The following excerpts are from recent parent letters.

Hi all – hope your summer is going well. Our son is doing very well. Has maintained a straight A report card and is into building and modifying computers. He has many good friends and even went to prom last spring. We are always talking about PATCH – and even ask ourselves why we sent him there because he is doing so well. But all we have to do is go through the papers and notes, and then we remember what “before PATCH” was really like. We owe a great debt to you all for giving us back the son we knew was “in there.” We continue to support PATCH because we believe others will benefit. Blessings. – From parents in Washington

Thank you so much for being His hands, heart, and mouth and touching and changing my daughter. I shudder to think where she would be right now if she hadn't gone to PATCH. I cannot think of anything that has impacted her life more than her time there with you all. God bless each and every one of you. – From a mother in Oregon

This past week I spent with my daughter (on her home leave from PATCH) was very surprising and very pleasant for me. I was very hesitant and didn't know what to expect from her, so of course I was on guard in the beginning. As the days passed she showed me she was making good decisions and being responsible. How grown up and what a beautiful young lady she is becoming. I'm overjoyed with hope and excitement with her potential for her future. With the past 1-2 years of everything we went through, I see hope and a wonderful life for her family. I know in my heart that I made the right decision, and I would not change a thing. She has helped me to begin mending and healing my heart in just this one week. Project PATCH and the awesome staff do make a difference and change families' lives for good. God bless you and thank you, Stephanie (counselor), from the bottom of my heart. – From a mother in California

PATCH, together with our dear friends who referred us to PATCH, have given us a hope for our daughter's present... and future...and we also want to help transform other young lives. We are convinced that PATCH is a powerful catalyst for transformation, thus we would like to become monthly donors. Our first contribution is enclosed. We hope we can give more in the future...and we have also included PATCH in the redrafting of our Will (or “Living Trust”). God bless you all! – From parents in Washington

Challenge Yourself and Change a Life

The headline above reflects the theme of the THIRD ANNUAL MATCH FOR PATCH GOLF TOURNAMENT held this past June. This year's tournament gave golfers the opportunity to help change kids' lives as well as to meet young people affected by that generosity. Two recent graduates, Amber and Oscar both described

rebellious and dangerous behaviors that led their parents to send them to PATCH. Although adjusting to the structured environment was difficult, they said that they are now grateful for the experience because of how much they learned. In fact, Amber makes frequent weekend visits to PATCH.

Petra Construction kindly got the event rolling with a title sponsorship of \$5,000. Due to the generous donations of sponsors, golfers and the hard work of volunteers, we raised over \$19,500 so that other Ambers and Oscars can get the help they need.



From left: Jon Colson, Jillian Wright, Mrytle Fruichantie, Steve Andrews, Jennifer Matoske, Idaho Development Director, Brad Bolichuk and Vicky Smith. Not shown: Carly Reyes, Gary LaFay, Bruce Wright and Karen Early.

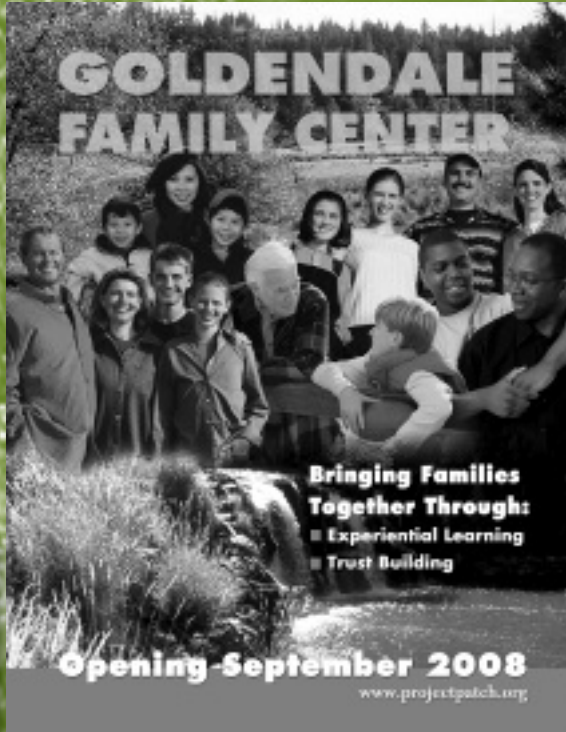
GOLDENDALE FAMILY



Power lines
being placed



Well
drilling



Project PATCH
has begun to
market the
Center with
magazine ads.



CENTER IN PROGRESS

"We don't do anything as a family anymore; we don't even watch TV together because everyone has their own TV set." This is a familiar refrain in many families.

We can all have busy schedules, parents as well as children. Communication is lost as we rush from one engagement to the next, whether they be meetings, school functions, sporting events, music lessons, church activities — the list is endless.

In helping at-risk teens and their families for the past 23 years, Project PATCH has found that most families have challenges with communication, expectations, boundaries, and trust. Hurts have been ignored and left to fester. There may be plenty of love within a family, but not enough positive communication, trust building, accountability and respect.

It is difficult to make an impact on a family as a whole unless all the members are present and involved in that process. Families need a place to come together, and God has provided just such a place — 500 acres in Goldendale, Washington. The property is primitive, with only a rough road, and raw potential. Soon

however, a family resort will take shape, with quiet cabins, a lodge, hiking trails, and gazebos overlooking breathtaking waterfalls.

The Goldendale Family Center's focus will be on experiential activities. Families will participate in a low ropes course, scavenger hunts, Geo Caching, games and much more. With an emphasis on discovering more about each other and with ample opportunity for reflection, families will spend three to five days together.

We are confident that families can benefit from time spent at the Center: families that need help connecting, blended families, those who simply want more out of their time together, those in transition and any family wanting a unique experience.

God has provided the land and a vision for that land, but most importantly He has given us a desire to help families. We invite you to be a part of this great opportunity. With God's help Project PATCH is committed to uniting hearts and homes. Our prayer is that each family served at the Goldendale Family Center will find better communication skills, respect for one another, safe boundaries, love, and healing.

Thank You, We Appreciate Your Generosity

Thanks to the two companies who donated the use of some heavy equipment making it possible to continue the work on the road:

- A John Deere 200CLC excavator from ROWAND MACHINERY, PASCO, WA
 - A Case 580M backhoe from STAR RENTALS, PORTLAND, OR/ VANCOUVER, WA
- Both companies bent over backwards numerous times to provide the equipment needed for building a very difficult and challenging roadway to our property.



Surveying
for a
foundation



Work crew
eating area

Finding a Needle in the Haystack



Summer is over and fall is already showering pine needles all over the campus, providing everyone with an abundance of yard work.

On the first day of my shift we started raking. It was cooler than other mornings, which is probably why I felt my fingers had shrunk and I noticed I wasn't wearing my wedding ring anymore. When looking around the yard where we had been working and finding nothing, I realized the only place left to look was the "Blue Chariot."

The Blue Chariot is PATCH's famous and unpopular big wheel barrel. Made from the back of a blue pickup truck, it's operation requires seven people (five pulling while two sit in the back for balance).

As I stared into the bed of the Blue Chariot, filled with brush and pine needles, I began to think I would never find my wedding ring. When my husband, Angel, said he would buy me a better one I was touched. I explained that it wasn't the quality of the ring that mattered it was about what this particular ring meant to me.

The next day the girls pitched in to help find my ring. We dumped the brush onto the soccer field to spread it out. The mass of brush and pine needles was a discouraging sight and gave a new and personal meaning to the saying "like finding a needle in a haystack."

"Let's pray so we can find it," said Kathleen, one of the residents.

"Sure," I said, but with little faith. Even though I had prayed the day before, I wasn't confident that

my ring was in the pile of brush. The previous night I had talked during worship about how God answers prayers, and felt that the girls were ready to try God, even in this trivial matter.

"OK," I said, "who's going to pray?"

"Well you, obviously! It's your ring!" was their response.

I didn't feel like praying. I preferred to have someone else pray for me at that moment, but I did it anyway and left it in God's hands. After praying I felt encouraged so I kept praying, "OK God, the girls are trusting in You, don't let them down. They need to see You in their lives."

We went back to work sifting through the brush. A few minutes had passed when Ashley, a resident, called my name. When I looked up, she had the ring in her hand and a big smile on her face. I was overcome with emotion and I began to cry as I hugged and thanked her.



After we calmed down, Ashley told me she really hadn't known God personally before she came to PATCH, and wasn't sure how to pray. In spite of this she had decided to try and had prayed in her own way. She was excited that her prayer was answered so quickly. Another resident who had trouble believing in God, also prayed silently before the ring was found.

The first time I prayed God answered, "**Not yet, the timing isn't right.**" The second time I prayed, God said "**Yes, this is the right time.**" What seemed impossible God made easy because He wanted us to know He cares for our feelings. Even the smallest detail is important to God, He makes Himself real, He makes His love real for us, His children.

I'll never forget that day when God found my needle in a haystack. – *by Rosie Leon, Ranch Staff*



A Bird in Hand

How much does a penny weigh? Have you ever wanted to hold a hummingbird in your hand? Have you ever tried to fathom God's love for creatures great and small? We explore all of these questions at Project PATCH Ranch, while helping young people understand God's infinite care and plan for their lives.

This spring Spencer Walters, a Ranch staff member, coordinated with Stacey Petersen, from the local community, to introduce the boys to the process of banding and recording hummingbirds. They were shown how to catch and release the birds and each youth was able to hold a hummingbird in their hands. These tiny creatures are

so light, they weigh about as much as a penny.



The care with which you must hold a fragile hummingbird helped to illustrate to the boys God's infinite care for them; how he holds each of their precious and fragile lives gently in His hands.



TOM TALKS

GOOD NEWS: The Joint Commission (national accrediting for healthcare institutions) has recently renewed our accreditation for another three years. The first time we went through the accrediting process we had six months to prepare. This time the surveyors showed up totally unannounced with no warning or time to prepare. What they saw is what we normally do during any given day.

The overall quality of Project PATCH—our program, facility, school and accreditation—rank Project PATCH in the top five percent of adolescent residential treatment facilities in the United States. Being able to provide a quality program for the kids who come to us is truly a blessing.

MORE GOOD NEWS: We have a mandate to get our family therapy center in Goldendale operational by next summer. We have faith it will happen. It will take a great amount of money, but we know it *can* and *will* happen.

THE CHALLENGE: While we have been blessed with some wonderful gifts for capital improvements at the Garden Valley Ranch, operational expenses keep escalating. We are committed to helping every young person who meets our criteria for admission, but we cannot do this without the help of faithful donors. Any gift, large or small, goes a long way in helping us keep our head above water.

— Tom Sanford, Executive Director



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In This Issue. . .

Graduates Respond to Jesus

Kids in Creation

Letters from the Heart

Goldendale Update

PATCH works! is published three times yearly by Project PATCH for alumni, board members, parents, staff, and philanthropic supporters...

Comments are welcome please contact
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Second Annual SUPPORTER DAY THANK YOU Saturday, October 27 4 to 7 pm Garden Valley Ranch

All supporters are welcome to enjoy the day's events which include: Ranch tours, a presentation by the kids and dinner. An RSVP is required. Please reply to Jennifer Matoske at 208-375-8965 or jmatoske@projectpatch.org.



PROJECT PATCH WISH LISTS GARDEN VALLEY RANCH

- VACUUMS (2) EA\$150
- ROCK CLIMBING SHOES\$45
- NETS FOR HOCKEY AND SOCCER GOALS\$75
- AIR SCRUBBER FOR WOOD SHOP\$400
- BOX CLAMPS FOR WOOD SHOP\$35
- THREE JAW PULLER (3) EA.\$100 – 150
- BACKPACKING SLEEPING BAGS (6) EA.\$175
- HELMETS (BIKING, SLEDDING, RAFTING)\$30
- WINTER BOOTS\$40
- WINTER COATS\$50
- WINTER GLOVES\$20
- DIGITAL CAMERA (7+ MEGAPIXEL)\$400
- SNOW SHOVELS (GRAIN SHOVELS)\$15
- SCREWS FOR WOOD SHOP PROJECTS\$40
- LARGE HANGING FLOWER BASKETS (6) EA\$20
- VEHICLES IN GOOD WORKING CONDITION

GOLDENDALE

- HELP SPONSOR A WELL\$20,000
- NEW WATER SAVER PLUMBING FIXTURES?
- NEW ELECTRICAL FIXTURES?
- STILL NEEDED FOR 1.5 MILES OF POWER LINES\$30,000
- VOLUNTEERS SKILLED IN PLUMBING, ELECTRICAL, ROOFING,
SIDING, PAINTING AND FINISH CARPENTRYPRICELESS!