



IN BRIEF

Thank You

A big thank you to the Maranatha Volunteers who are remodeling a large house at the Ranch. Because of their hard work and dedication, we will have three more staff apartments.

Good Work

Kudos to our kids and staff who worked hard prepping for the house remodel – everything from breaking up concrete to hauling away bricks.

Ranch Sitings

The white head of a Bald eagle poking above its nest; boys (old & young) outfitted for the annual fly fishing trip; turkey vultures on fence posts along the driveway; laughing, mud-covered girls after a slippery soccer game on a soggy field; a trumpeter swan paddling in the pond with the Canadian geese; boys in flowery aprons on kitchen duty; girls eagerly sharing their favorite Bible verse in evening worship.

Passion Play

Marge Van Dyk, girl's dorm director, and Anthony Thompson, chaplain, took several of our girls to the Passion Play in Nampa.

PATCH *works!*

Working Things Out with Dad



My dad left the house when I was nine because he had found someone else. At first I pretended that it didn't affect me, when in reality it did. I became very angry with my dad for what he had done and didn't want much to do with him. I started hanging out with kids in my neighborhood where I learned about drugs, alcohol and gangs at an early age. I was constantly getting suspended for fighting and telling off teachers.

As I got older I forgave my dad and I started seeing him on the weekends. I would tell friends how cool he was because he would talk about how he had three girlfriends and stuff. In reality, my dad was just a womanizer. He would often make comments about other women walking down the street and I would agree with

it all. My mom had finally had enough of my behavior and decided that it would be better to move from California to Idaho.

My dad and I were not too happy about this because it meant we wouldn't be able to see each other as much. This created more anger in my life and I started hating my mom. My life in Idaho didn't change much from my life in California. Halfway through the year I got expelled from Gem State Academy and I made plans to move in with my dad, but because of my behavior, it didn't work out.

I came to PATCH with a very high image of my dad and a very low image of my mom. In reality, my dad had not even been a big part of my life for the past five years. He never came to visit me in Idaho and only called once in a while.

My counselor gave me an assignment called "solve the mystery" so that I could see why I was doing what I was doing. I discovered the reasons I was selling out to friends for acceptance was because I didn't feel acceptance from my mom or dad. My dad had never really been there for me, so I would go to someone who would be there for me, or to people that at least I thought were friends.

My counselor and I decided to do a series of tests to see how badly my dad wanted to be a part of my life. I hadn't seen my dad in over a year and a half, so I was super excited when I saw him. We spent some time together and he talked to me about some of the things I had done. He apologized for not being a good example to me and promised to be a bigger part of my life and to work on his problem with women. I thank God that I was able to work things out with my dad and that we're both working on our issues together.

Making the Transition Easier

Becoming

PATCH's first after-care counselor has been a real learning experience.

I've learned to double check addresses after discovering that my hotel was near the home where the family used to live. I've learned that a six-hour trip can quickly become a 12-hour trip because of snow. However, I've also learned that spending time with our graduates more than compensates for the frustration of wrong addresses, travel delays, and being away from home.

While visiting Jill, I discovered she hadn't registered for college because she was intimidated by the process. Her family didn't understand her hesitancy and weren't helping or being supportive. When I left, she was registered and family communication had improved. I was also able to get her connected with a mentor who had financially supported her during her stay at PATCH.

In my visit with Matt's parents I learned that he was no longer attending school. He was becoming argumentative and had manipulated them into letting him stay home. I was able to help them understand how Matt was controlling them; I encouraged them to enforce their home contract. Matt also realized he was making some of the same choices that led to his stay at the Ranch. He was able to see that his choices were hurting him and his family.

The highlight of every visit is spending time with kids I have grown to love. Most often we go to their favorite restaurant and are still sitting there after everyone else has left. We laugh about tough times, catch up on news about staff and kids, and remember how much God has done in our lives.

It can be painful to watch kids leave our care to return home to difficult circumstances. However, I am thankful for the opportunity to work with our graduates and their families and do my part to make the transition easier.

**Sarah Smith
with PATCH
Graduate**

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Daddy's Girl Again

Dear NancyAnne & PATCH Board & Staff,

Greetings! I thought I'd just drop you a note and thank you and the organization for all the encouragement we have received from you and the staff at the Ranch. Our daughter, Kelsey, is well on the way to recovery after one year as a resident of Project PATCH. We have seen some amazing changes in the way she thinks, speaks, and acts. The "desires of her heart" are changing in a positive direction, and for that we are so in your debt.

One year ago at this time, Kelsey was not even on speaking terms with her Dad. Now, next week, he is making a solo visit to see her...because her desire seems to be to repair the relationship! This will be a **major** step in her recovery, for it was her negative feelings towards her father that caused a major part of her rebellion and risky behaviors.

I enclose a poem Kelsey wrote for her father. She had no positive memories of him when she arrived at PATCH, until she woke up from a dream one night at the Ranch. The dream stirred up images of when as a small child, she and her dad used to dance in the living room to country music that they both enjoyed! A result of the stirring of that memory was this poem. It brings tears to our eyes every time we read it, and we thought we would share it with you.

Also enclosed are photos of Kelsey and her Dad. One I took at Christmas, during my most recent visit to the ranch. It is picture postcard beautiful, and I wanted to share this beauty with you! It reminds me of the verse: "Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow" (Psalm 51:7). In a very real sense, PATCH is providing a cleansing process for the souls of the boys and girls that are so wonderfully served by a caring and loving staff.

Again, thank you...and may God richly bless PATCH as he has so blessed us, Monica



DANCE AGAIN

*Small girl...
Barely age four,
Dancing with her Daddy
On the living room floor –
Swinging and dreaming
And laughing away,
Wishing the feeling would last all day.*

*Just a child
At grade school age
Singing in the car with Dad
To every country song played.*

*A growing adolescent
At such an awkward time,
Trying to push her Dad away
And exclude him from her secret life.*

*A lost teenager
Always running away,
Farther and farther every day;
Resisting the man who gave her breath,
Addicted to drugs, inviting death.*

*She's ready to dance again;
She's ready to sing out loud.
She's ready to have a life again;
She's not lost in the crowd.
She's ready to live a life.
She's scared and confused,
But she wants her Dad right by her side.*

By Kelsey





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