

From the Director

IT'S STILL A WONDERFUL LIFE

Above the door to my office hangs an old board. On it is written "It's a Wonderful Life," the title of a classic old movie. The movie is memorable for me because George Bailey, played by Jimmy Stewart, went back in time and saw how so many lives would be different had he never been born.

We don't need a mythical angel (like the movie's Clarence) to reveal the past and our impact on other people's lives. We can witness that impact in the lives we touch from a simple "thanks, that meant a lot to me" to seeing what God is doing to save a life in a small or even heroic way through us. Lives are impacted by all of us.

At PATCH we see on a regular basis the changes made in these young people. Nothing is more rewarding to our staff than when a young person calls or writes years after completing our program and tells of the wonderful life they have now as opposed to

continued on page 4

PATCH works!

GRADUATION GRINS



This year 16 young people have graduated our program, placing us well on track to celebrate the most graduations in a single year. These celebrations provide a great time for the kids to reflect on the behaviors that brought them to PATCH, as well as the lessons learned, boundaries established, and plans for the future. But, most importantly, it's the time to thank staff and peers for the role they played in changing their lives.

You, as a donor, played a major role in supporting these miraculous life changes and deserve thanks as well. This year, the average monthly tuition assistance needed by families was \$2,300. As we process applications for new kids coming into our program, we see that sponsorship dollars need to increase by over 30%. Let's work together to break every record and help even more troubled teens in 2010.

Four additional Graduates not pictured

INTO THE WILDERNESS

A four-day, 23-mile trip marked the end of Alex's* PATCH experience as she prepared to graduate. Cindy* had just arrived at PATCH a few weeks before. For each of the girls the wilderness trip marked a new beginning.

Cindy's eyes stung from sweat, her legs muscles felt as if they would give out. All she wanted was to stop, rest and complain, but shouts from up ahead kept her moving. Someone called out, "WOW, this is so beautiful — look how far we can see!" Cindy summoned her last ounce of energy and was rewarded with a sense of accomplishment as she began to experience the joy and wonder of God's creation — a majestic lake, green towering trees, golden summer grasses and a chipmunk scavenging for food.

Cindy liked the trip because it connected her to people and the PATCH program. She said, "...but I think the best part of the whole trip was the people I got to be around. Being able to sit by the lake with my mentor, Alex, and catch fish and laugh at the same things was amazing."



Smiles at the end of the trail

Alex reflected, "There is something about nature that is awesome and makes me think back to my Creator, the one who let me enjoy the land that I live in. I've never felt closer to Him than I did that last night, just singing *Amazing Grace* towards the open lake. I am so glad to have had the opportunity to experience that beauty one last time while at PATCH."

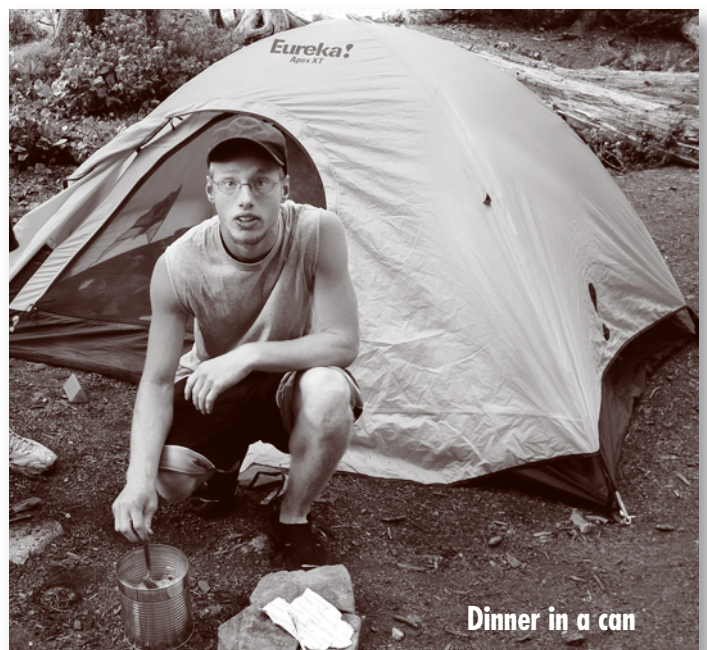
On the boys' wilderness trip, they learned about the effort required to climb uphill a long distance and then later, the pain of descent. They also discovered the value of encouragement, good attitudes and the power of teamwork.

Robert's* comments that "...every uphill climb always has to end somewhere and you can't get stronger just walking on flat ground," reveal just one of the lessons learned. He also said, "God won't always help in the way you want, but when you ask for help, He helps."

*Not their real names



A big catch



Dinner in a can

This poem was written by a young lady during her time at PATCH. Many of our young people come to PATCH angry at God. When they see the real face of God and He reaches through their hurts and gives them comfort, we rejoice. Thank you for being a part of helping a hurting teen see how God reaches her. Spiritual growth is a thing of beauty.

GOD REACHES ME

*I feel like God reaches me in everything that I do,
and everything I enjoy, like dancing,
and listening to music, or exercising.*

*I feel Him when I'm amazed at this body that He gave me.
The muscles that move so quickly,
and at barely or no thought at all.*

*I'm amazed because He made me special,
perfect for my miniscule part in the world's history.
I am perfect for some great and vast plan He made for me,
no matter if it is sharing my story to inspire,
or simply just being a wife and a mother.*

*I am amazed at the tiny things in my brain that make me special,
things that make me – me. Psalm 27:10.*

*The amount of thought and grace it took
to make me special from others
in little ways that become big ways,
making us all specifically unique and different.*

*After all that beautiful thought and grace,
why would we want to be anyone else?*

*I am a small thread in the vast fabric of the world, touching
every other thread on my way through God's masterpiece.*

*That He took the time to make sure I was specifically made,
that I survived the fires and grew from them,
and so carefully woven into place.*

Is that not the best proof that God is loving, living and inside us?

*We don't have to look far for a miracle:
they are all around us,
in the people we live and work with.*

PATCH girls on recent backpacking trip

Heaven Rejoices

Kamia arrived at PATCH about two years ago all in black, including her hair, dyed no doubt to complete her statement of defiance. Her parents, frustrated and brokenhearted over her decisions the past year, knew they needed to take a desperate step. They showed us a photo taken the prior year of a girl who seemed to have everything together — a picture of peace and beauty. Her grades were mostly A's, her attitude compliant and appreciative, and she was seeking God in her life. But inside her there was a storm brewing that landed her in a treatment center just a short time later.



Kamia's time at PATCH was rough. Her coping mechanism for emotional pain was self-inflicted physical pain. Prescribed medication helped initially to slow her thoughts so she could manage her emotions and learn to control her behavior. But medications couldn't help her process past abuse issues from a distant relative, resentments she held against her parents, and an almost obsessive need to be perfect. Discovering that she couldn't be perfectly good, Kamia turned to being perfectly bad. Apathy and failure manifested in all her behaviors.

Kamia's parents, challenged to explore some personal issues, had to be patient as she struggled through negative behaviors and consequences. Yet Kamia did make internal changes and established better behavioral practices. She graduated from the PATCH program and transferred to a boarding school far away from friends waiting to entice her back into negative choices. Boarding school wasn't easy either, and even though Kamia had done a tremendous amount of work on herself, she made mistakes and was suspended.

Recently, we received a call from Kamia's father to say that she had come home, but only for a short time. It was evident that she loved her parents dearly, but her defiance still plagued their relationship.



The family turned to a respected relative. Kamia moved in and soon settled into a productive routine. The black, depressed persona is now bright and upbeat. Pleased with her grades, even though not all A's, she no longer needs to be perfect. The lack of direction and pattern of running away from challenges is replaced by determination and confidence. Her father's pride as he talked about Kamia was obvious and deserved. He said that he and his wife now reap affectionate hugs as her past resentments heal.

We share this story, not because PATCH deserves the credit for Kamia's recovery, but because a child who was lost is found. Heaven is rejoicing, and we are, too.

From the Director: *continued from cover*

what it might have been. They usually close the conversation by saying, "I just wanted to say thanks."

This issue of *PATCHworks* highlights the great things that are taking place in the lives of teens and families. I hope you hear their gratitude as well as mine as you read these stories.

This issue also reveals some new challenges. Over the past 25 years I've learned not to judge a teen based on my first impressions of their clothes, vocabulary or behavior. Today, God still teaches me — not to judge

appearances but rather focus on what is possible.

You and PATCH can partner together in focusing on what is possible. We've witnessed God's providence in the past and anticipate His faithfulness in the future. In the meantime, we are committed to faithfully accomplish the tasks He has given us.

Thanks for being a part of this great work.

– Tom Sanford

PATCH Parent Workshop

It was early Sunday afternoon, and the 12 parents filing out of the room were both exhausted and energized. They had spent the weekend participating in our first Parent Workshop.

The participating parents had arrived Friday afternoon to attend mini-seminars with topics that included: Parenting with Love and Grace, Spirituality and Your Teen, and The Challenges of Raising Boys/Girls. PATCH counselors led sessions comprised of helpful information and good discussions. While sharing their experiences the parents connected and learned from each other.

One highlight of the weekend occurred when the parents were guided by their teenagers through the low ropes challenge course. This required them to trust, communicate and cooperate with their teens as they worked together. With much satisfaction they accomplished a difficult task with the help of their previously unfocused or defiant child. The exercise provided hope for future experiences based on trust and communication.

Herb and Joy Lewis, parents of a former PATCH resident, presented the capstone of the weekend. They shared struggles and insights into what their life was like both during and after their teen's stay at PATCH. The Lewis's wise and appreciated guidance focused the families on the hard work ahead. As one parent stated, "This [weekend] really helped to start [focusing] on 'life after PATCH' early in the process rather than near graduation." Another said, "Thank you very much for doing this... it's a new start for us."

Two similar parent weekend events are scheduled for next year. Parents are encouraged to rest and get ready for the next family-transforming weekend.



GOLDENDALE: An Exercise in Patience

Driving onto the Project PATCH Family Growth Center in Goldendale is beautiful but not difficult. It's hard to remember what it was like when it took over 20 minutes of jostling in a high-clearance, 4x4 vehicle. Thousands of hours of hard labor by volunteers working with a small crew of PATCH employees have resulted in the completion of a wide, smooth road. A 10,000-square-foot lodge with eight guest rooms, four cabins, a staff duplex, shop, RV parking, trails, and gazebos have also been built with the help of many, many volunteers.

Final work is now in progress to obtain the occupancy permit required before starting to serve families. A pump house needs to be built to house the fire suppression system. This will be one of the most expensive buildings and the most unglamorous. The pump, storage tank, and backup generator will cost close to \$100,000. In the meantime, buildings are being furnished as funding permits. All this work is for one purpose — to help build stronger families.

It's been difficult waiting for this project to be completed, especially since so many delays are beyond our control. The need for this family center continues to increase. Families are encountering more challenges and stress than ever before. Kids are suffering because their families are not fulfilling the role God designed for them. Families need a place and the people to help them learn and experience trust, acquire good communication and problem solving skills, establish individual and family roles, and just as important — learn to have fun with each other.

Progress is being made. We can't wait to begin serving families and seeing what God has in store for them.

Food & Fun for Everyone

Bubbles filled the air on Sunday, June 7th as close to 250 community guests attended our first Family Carnival & Bar-B-Q. The PATCH kids and staff worked hard to make the afternoon fun for all who attended. Children ran from booth to booth in the gym-turned-carnival using their free “tickets” to play games and win prizes. Activities included a ring toss, frisbee throw, duck bobbing, fishing, and face painting. The adults played horse shoes, cheered on the kids and just visited. Sysco generously donated the food.

For many in the area, it was their first visit to the Youth Ranch. Staff led tours of the facility and shared about the many miracles behind the program as well as success stories of our kids. We heard “Wow” or “I never knew...” repeated over and over as people gained a better understanding of our program.

Because Project PATCH values family and community fun, we look forward to repeating the event next June.



His Miracles on Display

May 20, 2009 – The Project PATCH 25th Anniversary Celebration & golf tournament was amazing. Golfers, alumni, families, donors and community leaders came to celebrate a quarter century of restoring troubled youth.



Former BSU football star Marty Tadman boldly told of his teen drug use and a miraculous encounter with God that turned his life around forever. He also shared about his fervent desire to reach teens with similar struggles.



Two current residents spoke about how their time at PATCH is reshaping how they view the world and the choices they make. Their future direction has been changed by the experience. His miracles were truly on display.

This display of miracles was punctuated by another phenomenal example of God’s power to provide. The Garden City, Meridian & Boise Wal-Mart stores pooled funds to create a title sponsorship of \$5,000!



We can always count on Him to give His precious kids a chance at a much brighter future.

There are many different ways to contribute to PATCH. We are very grateful for donations of any size. We also appreciate gifts-in-kind such as vehicles, heavy equipment, boats, real estate and even airplanes.

- Specific bequests in wills or living trusts
- Life income gifts to a charitable remainder trust, pooled income fund or gift annuity
- Retirement plan or IRA beneficiary designations
- Life insurance beneficiary designations
- Life estate agreement — give your property to PATCH, but live in and use the residence for life

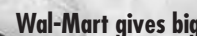
**For information, contact Tom Sanford at
tsanford@projectpatch.org or 360-690-8495.**

*Love what you are doing for the kids. The stories are so touching. God Bless
L, Washington*

I greatly enjoy reading your letters when they come. God bless you all. E, Oregon

*Wish this could be much more. God bless you
for doing this important work. J, Texas*

God is so good and thank you for being a channel through which His goodness flows to the kids and their families. Thank you for caring enough to hang in there. Keep on keeping on.



Wal-Mart in Garden City, Idaho, stepped up to support PATCH Youth Ranch with this gift of \$4,000.

Home Depot Volunteers

A number of times over the past five years Rowand Machinery in Pasco, Washington, has generously donated large excavators for our use in building roads and various



7



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In This Issue. . .

Graduation Grins

Into the Wilderness

Heaven Rejoices

Goldendale: An Exercise in Patience

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

Comments are welcome. Please contact
360-690-8495 or patch@projectpatch.org

Editors: Doris Burdick, Nancy Rader, Nancy Anne Ward
and Darlene Waybright

Contributors: Colleen Donald, Chuck Hagele, Jennifer
Matoske, PATCH Graduates, Nancy Rader, Tom Sanford
and Nancy Anne Ward

Photos: Bob Amoureux, Colleen Donald, Gary Garvin,
Chuck Hagele, Jennifer Matoske, Tom Sanford, Denise
Tank, Heidi VanDyk, Marge VanDyk and Dustin Young

PROJECT PATCH WISH LISTS

GARDEN VALLEY RANCH

- AED TRAINER (PHYSIO-CONTROL LIFEPAK)\$299
- ADULT CPR MANNEQUIN FOR
CPR/AED TRAINING, 4 PACK\$445
- AED-1 DEFIBTECH LIFELINE AED\$1,245
- DIGITAL VIDEO RECORDER (DVR)
FOR FAMILY COUNSELING\$350
- TELEVISION (32") FOR FAMILY COUNSELING\$400
- ROCK CLIMBING SHOES, EA\$45
- BACKPACKING SLEEPING BAGS, 5 EA\$150
- SNOW GLOVES, 10 EA\$15
- SNOW PANTS, 10 EA\$50
- TENTS, 2-PERSON, LIGHTWEIGHT, 3-SEASON, 6 EA ..\$150
- WINDBREAKERS, WATERPROOF, 8 EA\$40
- SOFTBALL GLOVES, 8 EA\$30
- BASKETBALLS, 8 EA\$30
- 8 VOLLEY BALLS, EA\$20
- WOOD SPLITTING MAULS, EA\$35
- YARD RAKES, MEDIUM, EA\$15
- SHOP VAC\$50

GOLDENDALE FAMILY GROWTH CENTER

- 5 NEW QUEEN-SIZE BEDS (WITHOUT HEADBOARDS), EA ...\$675
- 8 DRESSERS, EA\$350
- NEW WATER SAVER PLUMBING FIXTURES, EACH ROOM ...\$500
- NEW ELECTRICAL FIXTURES\$2,500
- POWER LINES TO NEW SHOP\$22,000
- FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM FOR LODGE\$40,000
- HEATING/AC UNITS FOR GUEST ROOMS, EA\$650
- VOLUNTEERS SKILLED IN CONSTRUCTION, PLUMBING, SIDING,
PAINTING AND FINISH CARPENTRYPRICELESS!
- VOLUNTEERS ANYTIMEPRICELESS!

From a Grateful Grandmother

Thank you for all you have done for our Sandy.
We are grateful for your organization and all the
dedicated staff. God bless you all!*

*We are also grateful to all those sponsors who
make it financially possible for young people to go
to PATCH.* Sincerely, A grateful grandmother

*Not her real name