

## IN BRIEF

TEENS SACRIFICE  
TO HELP

## OTHER TEENS

What's cooler than adults giving to help teens attend PATCH?—Teens giving! The youth at Life Church of Boise, Idaho, were challenged by their leaders to help other teens get the help they need at Project PATCH. At their 2008 Christmas Party Blitz they sure came through! They each brought what they could—money from allowances, part-time job income, Christmas gift money, etc. These generous kids gladly raised a total of \$350. What a testimony to the heart of kids who are given the chance to help others.

WEBSITE  
MAKEOVER

By the time you read this, PATCH's sparkling new, user-friendly website will be up and running! We'd like your feedback. Take a look at [www.projectpatch.org](http://www.projectpatch.org) and let us know what you think of our new look on the web.



# PATCH

## *works!*

### Christmas at PATCH



Good food, good friends, good feelings, good games, Santa Claus and a stocking filled with gifts for each child—a good day. Christmas at Project PATCH was relaxed and filled with joy as our kids celebrated the birth of Christ.



Christmas can be tough for these kids—being away from home and dealing with some of the emotional baggage connected with the holidays. The staff does their best to help each one feel special and loved by joining them in decorating, making cookies, and playing games (including a snowball fight with the Chaplain).



Lloyd Ingle of the Crouch Community Church was kind enough to impersonate Santa Claus...and, yes, his beard is real. He generously handed out smiles along with each personalized stocking, and he even helped with a game of Scrabble.

Thanks to all those whose kindness helped bring joy, peace, security and hope during the holiday season.



# HOPE from Hopelessness

## Apathy

best described the mood in the Project PATCH girls' dorm last fall.



It seemed as if most of the girls were simply comfortable with their issues and had no desire to make a change. However, the one important thing to remember about teenagers is that things are not always what they seem. Angry outbursts often hide pain. One thing is certain, they want someone to listen and understand.

Many of the kids who come to PATCH have experienced family divorce, devastating loss, abuse, and breaches in trust from adults who were supposed to protect them. As a result, they often experiment with drugs and sex, do poorly in school, and have a general disrespect for authority. These are not bad kids, but after making so many mistakes in life, many feel that it is too late to turn things around and that they aren't worth it anyway. They often feel hopeless. For this reason the staff and counselors came together to develop the Hopelessness Assignment.

Cutting through the negative behaviors to reach the heart of the matter was the assignment's objective. The first step was to find someone the kids could relate to—someone who had been in their shoes. Thankfully, we knew just the person—Gloria\*, a former resident, who humbly agreed to come back to do what she could. Three days later she sat in the Project PATCH chapel and told her story to the girls.

Gloria shared how her mom's terminal illness, family conflict, perceptions of unworthiness, and a learning disability resulted in her own hopelessness. Gloria began cutting herself and thought often of suicide. She worked hard to be accepted by her family and tried to compensate for her feelings of not being smart, pretty, or good enough. Gloria developed an eating disorder and suffered from anxieties that left her in a constant state of depression. She was at the point of giving up when her family sent her to PATCH.

\*not her real name

As Gloria shared her story, the girls listened with respect and awe at how Gloria had come through these events to be the confident, attractive, funny person she now is. Gloria shared about the difficult journey to honesty and how she is now able to forgive her family for not meeting her needs.

Gloria's testimony was a model of what can be accomplished when issues are faced head-on. The next step was to assign each of the girls to write her own Hopelessness Story—an account of how she got to the point in her own life of wanting to give up.

The girls' stories revealed years of pain and sorrow. The girls were told ahead of time that in addition to writing their stories, they would share them with their group as well. One girl shared about when she was taken into Child Protective Services after her drug addicted mom chose drugs when given the choice between her daughter or drugs. Another girl shared of how her father often made her watch pornographic movies with him. She went on to relate how she feels that sex has become a part of who she is and how she relates to people—even though it leaves her feeling dirty and ashamed.



The stories were courageously honest and impactful. Many told of painful secrets for the first time in their life, risking exposure and rejection. Tears flowed freely. The telling of the stories is not the end, but rather the beginning of journeys that we pray will be like Gloria's—from hopelessness to hope.

## PATCH Bouquets

*We want you to know that we appreciate what you are doing and we feel privileged to be able to donate and thereby have a small part in your ministry...we pray it will be a blessing to some of God's children both now and, more than that, for eternity.*

*S&C, Texas*

*Please use this (gift) to help the helpless. Thank you for being God's hands.*

*D, Oregon*

*May God continue to bless you and those precious kids.*

*C, Idaho*

*Keep up the good work for youth!*

*R, Washington*

*Praise God for all of the staff of Project PATCH. May God continue to bless you! I have a special place in my heart for all youth, especially all of them that come for help.*

*M, California*

*Here's my Christmas gift to Patch. Wish it could be more. But we are blessed & want to share our "mites" with the Patch kids. Hope to meet them all soon in heaven.*

*L, Oregon*

# LEARNING CAN BE FUN

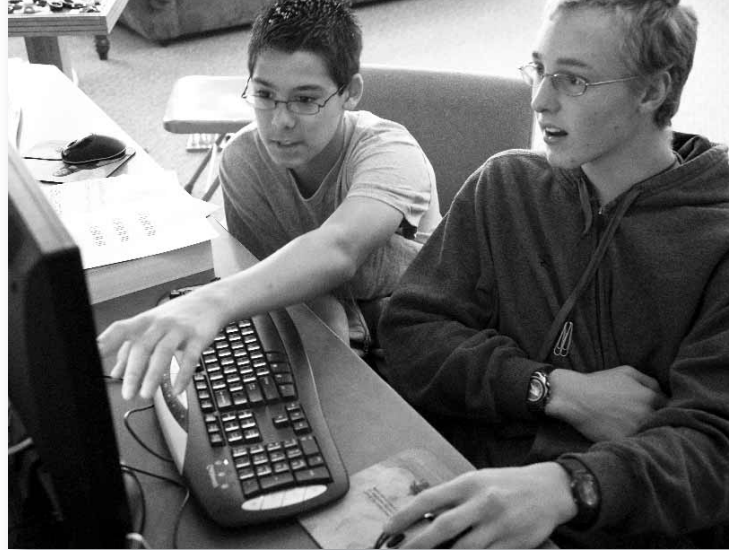
**Do all PATCH students love school?** Unfortunately, no. However, our staff works hard to create an environment that encourages thinking and learning, to build the students a foundation for continued success. The staff is rewarded by seeing students begin to enjoy school and make plans that include a lifetime of learning.

Here's what one of our boys said recently:  
*"Here at PATCH school I have found out that learning can be fun. This school has boosted my self-confidence and has made me learn in a way I didn't think possible. I have learned to stay focused, manage time wisely, and get things done without stress. Before I came to PATCH I was behind in school and failing miserably.*

*Now I have my GED, and I am probably going to get my high school diploma before it's all over. I actually love to walk into school and learn more each day. It has given me more than any other learning program I have ever been in, because you learn more on a one-on-one basis with your teachers. I thank my teachers for the huge impact they have made in my life and for helping me through all of the tough times."*

**PATCH makes learning fun and natural.** We've introduced several new programs in the past year with great results. The mathematics curriculum was transitioned from book based to on-line. Learning on the computer is natural for students and the software

gives students instant feedback to their answers. We also can now offer math classes from the third-grade level through pre-calculus. New classes were developed based on the practical subjects where kids showed an interest. For example, students received their **First Aid certification** as part of health class.



Keyboarding class was expanded and can now be accessed from dorm computers as well as school computers. Students learned film analysis as part of the English curriculum and enjoyed a special focus on art during the winter months.

This year we will introduce a **specialized reading program** designed to help struggling readers increase their fluency and comprehension. In addition we will update our self-paced curriculum to target a wider variety of learning styles, and our Bible class will continue to experiment with more activity-based curriculums. Finally, we are in the process of **expanding the curriculum** to include Advanced Placement courses for literature, statistics, and US history.

One of our girls recently shared her excitement about school by saying:

*"Project PATCH school has helped by giving me goals. Having a weekly goal gave me something to work towards, and also acted as a standard for me to hold myself up to. At first, I didn't think I could make it, but as I continued, I realized it got easier and easier. I realized that I was smart, and I could exceed my weekly goal. I also learned that anything I did in life was a choice. I could choose to fail, or I could choose to succeed. PATCH school is different because it's like being individually tutored. We can choose to go as fast or as slow as we want. We can get as many credits as we want, depending on how much work we choose to do. The teachers are also very helpful, and they will try many different ways to help me understand until I get it. Our schoolwork is also not confined to one book; we have many sources to choose from, learning how we learn, instead of having to learn how everyone else does...I came to PATCH as a beginning freshman, but I'll leave a junior. I know now that anything is possible."*

# GOING HOME WITHOUT YOUR CHILD

No matter how much a child may need treatment, leaving your child that first day at Project PATCH is hard. The following is a letter to Colleen Donald, Treatment Coordinator, from a mother who recently placed her daughter at the Ranch.



Hi Colleen,  
I just received the "Going Home without Your Child" letter today. Thank you. It helped to know that I'm not the only one who goes through this (what feels like) crazy barrage of emotions. Thank you for confirming that I've done the right thing, as I felt God was telling me months ago. I did research other options and just felt in my heart (and resounding in my head) that Project PATCH is what Hannah<sup>\*</sup> really needed, though I still wavered, even after I filled out the paperwork.

As I questioned myself (mainly when my daughter was being very sweet — and I felt that she was TRYING to make better choices) on at least two separate occasions, a friend whose daughter was also at the Ranch contacted me — out of nowhere — when I was praying for answers. That's just ONE way that I was pushed through these last couple of months to continue to try to get her into PATCH... I could go on with other examples, but I'll spare you. I so look forward to meeting my daughter again, the one who's delightfully conversational, respectful, talented, and her qualities yet to emerge. She has such a beautiful smile and a terrific sense of humor. I know it's going to be tough for her to get through the layers of pain and confusion, and that's hard. I feel so much guilt for putting her through the divorces, but felt I made the right choices by getting out of those situations. I never want to make that mistake again.

Most of all, I thank you and Project PATCH for finding the funds to help get her there. When I first called I was told the cost would be around \$1,500 (per month), and I honestly "shut down." I thought... there's no way - I'll never be able to get her what she needs (and angry too... feeling tired of trying to do this alone). Somehow, you (PATCH) found the way, and if there's ever a chance for me to thank the sponsors, I'd love to do that.

Last night (Hannah's second night there) I slept better than I have in a year. Thank you.

Sincerely, Hannah's Mom

<sup>\*</sup>not her real name



## Goldendale Update

There is never “just an ordinary day” anywhere for Project PATCH. At the Youth Ranch in Garden Valley, there are always the miracles of changed lives. At Vancouver, there are the miracles of donations coming at just the precise time of need. Add those to the miracles that continue to happen in the construction of the new facility in Goldendale.

If you are reading our newsletter for the first time, Goldendale is where PATCH is developing a family growth center on 500 acres.

The Goldendale project has not been without its setbacks, which include delays in getting power to the property and having to drill much deeper for water than anticipated -- each well is over 540 feet deep. But, there have been other issues that have led us to believe that God really wants this project to happen. Here are just a few:

- 1** The wonderful gift of time from the countless volunteers, both individuals and groups, including the Pathfinders from the Upper Columbia Conference, Maranatha Volunteers, International, and various churches.
- 2** The miracle of the donations of money, discounts and outright gifts that have been so welcome.
- 3** The small crew led by Carlyle Mason that has made such a difference towards completion in between the time when volunteers could come. What a difference a day makes in the progress of completing the lodge.
- 4** Above all, the beautiful site for the facility which seemed a gift from heaven.



Most of you probably are unaware that Klickitat County had restricted traffic and occupancy on our property. Just recently a superior court judge ruled in our favor, granting a larger census and more traffic. This is only a synopsis, there is much more to this story.

We plan to be open for business this summer. If you or your church would like to help complete the project, we encourage you to come and spend some time helping prepare the facility for service to families.

# Grocery Shopping for PATCH

Would you like to support PATCH kids with your grocery money?

Just link your Albertsons card and they will give us 4 percent of what you spend!

Only four simple steps are required to register online:

1. If you don't already have a free Albertsons Preferred Card you may get one at the customer service desk of any Albertsons supermarket.
2. Log on to **www.albertsons.com**, click "**In the Community**" at the bottom of the home page; then click the link for Albertsons Community Partners.
3. Enter your preferred card number  
(if you don't know your number call **877-932-7948**)
4. Enter PATCH's Community Partner Number **49001007646**.

Or if you don't have access to the internet, you can pick up a registration form at any Albertsons supermarket.

It's that simple! Buy the items you want, scan your Albertsons card at the check stand and PATCH gets 4 percent. Please tell your friends and family.



## FORE!

*Project PATCH invites  
you to celebrate our*

**5TH ANNUAL  
MATCH FOR PATCH  
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**Wednesday, May 20, 2009**

**Spurwing Country Club**

Join us in raising funds to give  
teens in crisis a chance at a  
brighter future. Sign-in begins at  
7 am with a shot gun start at 8 am.  
There will be tee gifts for all,  
a gourmet luncheon, amazing  
prizes and a short auction.

Go to [www.projectpatch.org](http://www.projectpatch.org) to  
register and click the "Support  
PATCH" link or call Jennifer at  
208-375-8965.





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In This Issue. . .

**Christmas at PATCH**

**Hope from Hopelessness**

**Learning Can Be Fun**

**Going Home Without Your Child**

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](mailto:patch@projectpatch.org)**

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## PROJECT PATCH WISH LISTS

### GARDEN VALLEY RANCH

- FOR GIRLS' DORM, 2 SOFAS, EA .....\$1200-1500
- FOR GIRLS' DORM, 2 ARM CHAIRS, EA .....\$750
- FOR BOYS' DORM, 2 SOFAS, EA .....\$1200-1500
- FOR BOYS' DORM, 1 EASY CHAIR .....\$750
- DIGITAL VIDEO RECORDER (DVR) .....\$350  
(FOR FAMILY COUNSELING)
- TELEVISION (32" PLASMA) .....\$400  
(FOR FAMILY COUNSELING)
- ROCK CLIMBING SHOES, EA .....\$45
- OUTDOOR SOCCER GOALS AND NETS .....\$500
- WOOD SPLITTING MAULS, EA .....\$35
- YARD RAKES, MEDIUM, EA .....\$15
- BASC-2 BEHAVIOR ASSESSMENT SYSTEM .....\$900
- MECHANICS TOOL SET .....??
- SPORTS SAFETY GLASSES ,  
(NEED 18 FOR RESIDENTS AND 4 FOR STAFF) EA .....\$25
- ASSORTED DECK/WOOD WORKING SCREWS .....??
- 8 VOLLEY BALLS, EA .....\$20-25
- LATE MODEL 7 - 15 PASSENGER VAN WITH AWD OR FWD
- 1-TON 4X4 PICKUP TRUCK, W/8-FT BED IN GOOD CONDITION  
(PREFERABLY CREW CAB)

### GOLDENDALE FAMILY GROWTH CENTER

- 8 NEW QUEEN-SIZE BEDS (WITHOUT HEADBOARDS), EA ...\$675
- 8 DRESSERS, EA .....\$350
- FLOORING FOR THE LODGE .....\$42,000
- PUMP HOUSE .....\$36,000
- FIRE SPRINKLER PUMP .....\$40,000
- CONCRETE WALKS AND DRIVE-THROUGH ENTRY .....\$412,000
- FINAL SEPTIC WORK ON LODGE & SHOP .....\$5,000?
- 10 AMANA HEATER/AIR CONDITIONERS  
(FOR GUEST ROOMS), EA .....\$650
- VOLUNTEERS ANYTIME .....PRICELESS!

