

## In Brief

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Project PATCH is searching for someone who is an excellent communicator, enjoys connecting with people over the phone and in person, and is very comfortable with computers, especially Microsoft applications. The position is full-time Assistant Development Director working in the Vancouver office. Go to [www.projectpatch.org/jobs](http://www.projectpatch.org/jobs) for more information.

### "AMAZING AND OUTSTANDING"

The Joint Commission surveyor used these words to describe our Youth Ranch program. During the three-day site visit in September the program was carefully inspected to ensure we meet their highest standards. We are already in the process of implementing the few areas for improvement identified during the survey. This accreditation is one of many elective processes Project PATCH uses to make sure we operate a world-class, safe, and effective facility.

# PATCH works!

## FACEBOOK IS FOR KIDS?

Recently in a breakfast conversation with PATCH staff, resident Janelle\* insisted, "Facebook is for kids." In fact, she became quite agitated with her friends and staff who didn't agree with her. She does not like it one bit that adults are using Facebook. She thinks adults should stick to their own way of communicating and leave technology and "friends" to the kids.



Janelle isn't going to get her way. Facebook and the internet are no longer just for kids or the technologically savvy. Now they are tools for connecting with people and the things people are passionate about.

Project PATCH launched our "Cause" page on Facebook earlier this year. We did it without great fanfare or any particular expectations. Since then, over 250 people have identified with PATCH's cause to help restore troubled youth and build stronger families.

Our Facebook Cause page is an easy way to find out what's new at PATCH. Alumni use it to share their thoughts about PATCH. People use it to challenge their friends to get involved.

We have also been working on adding more features to our website. We constantly update pictures, add articles by our staff and provide progress reports on the Family Center. The website is also the place to go to easily link to our Facebook Cause page, check Tom Sanford's speaking schedule, request Tom to speak at your church or group or request specific information about PATCH. You can also make secure credit/debit card donations directly through our website.

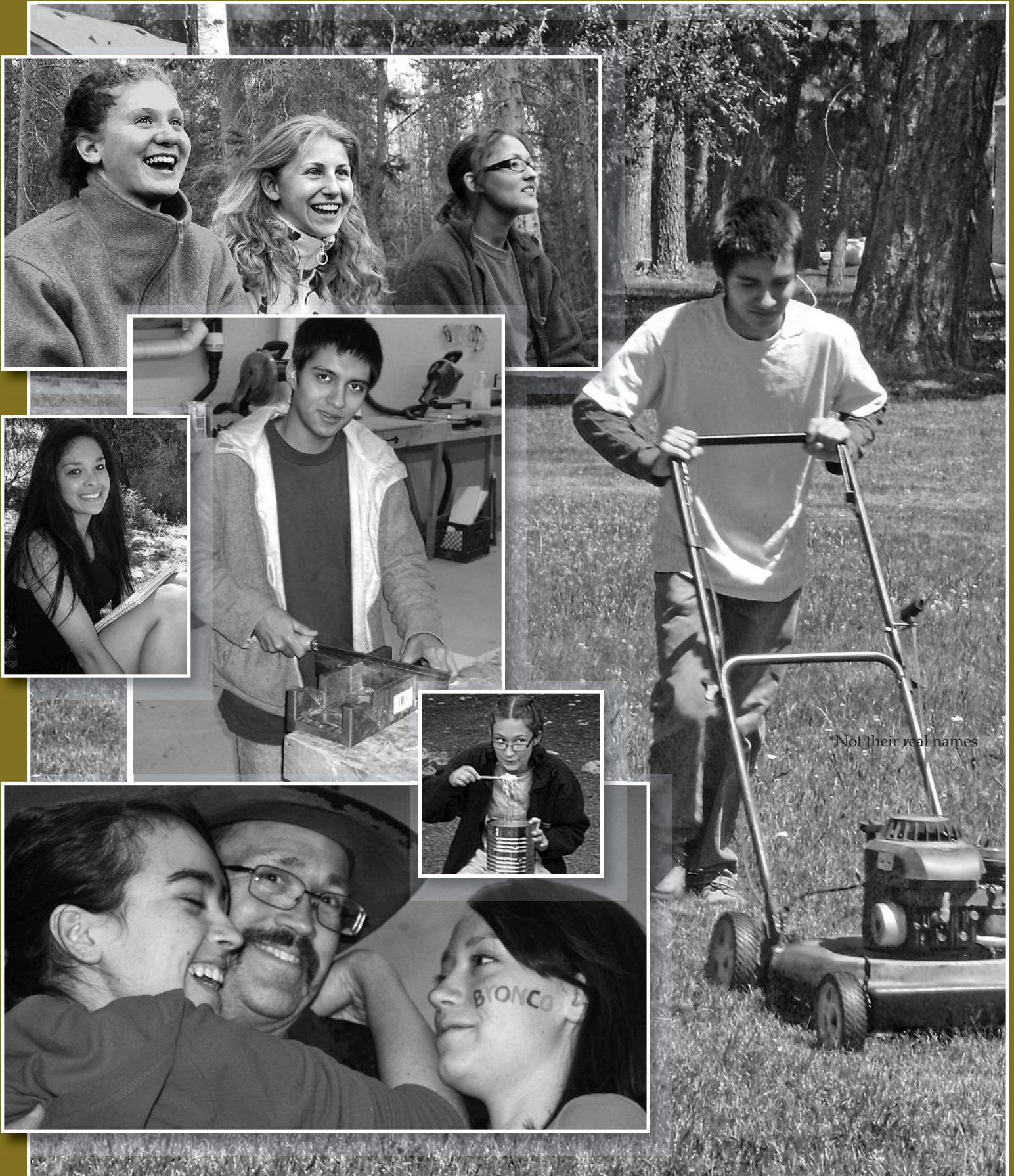
Even though Janelle is disappointed that you are using the internet — and Facebook — we encourage you to check out [www.projectpatch.org](http://www.projectpatch.org) the next time you are connected.

*\*not her real name*





# A Busy Summer at the





# Youth Ranch





# From the Founder

Some of you may remember hand-cranked phones and party lines. Nothing was secret because you could carefully lift your ear piece off the hook and listen in. There was no need to gossip, because everyone knew everything anyway. Look how far telecommunications have come!

Think of the progress in the world of automobiles. When I finish restoring my 1925 Buick, I wouldn't think of driving it 70 miles an hour on the freeway (mostly because it won't go that fast, even downhill). It has no air conditioning, power locks or windows, no defroster, ABS brakes or traction control. For comfort and conveniences my Buick just doesn't have it.

So I am grateful for the progress in life in spite of the difficulty keeping up with all the new technology, especially computers.

Looking back on PATCH's history, I am reminded of our primitive beginnings and all the positive changes. We started with a few kids bent on making trouble, several worn-down parents and a generous group of foster parents who willingly (some more than others) took on life-changing assignments. We then developed a program which could help even more kids by providing counselors, specialized education, a chaplain to understand their struggles, as well as recreation and work opportunities they would never forget.

Now we shift into an even higher gear as we add another program to train and equip families to thrive despite the challenges they face. Tired of idly watching as families are devastated by difficult but survivable challenges, our Family Center can now strengthen families in ways the Youth Ranch never could.

I am committed to being a part of PATCH, and grateful for our staff who have the same passion. At times we changed job descriptions for the betterment of PATCH. Recently I asked the Board of Trustees to change my job description and title from Executive Director to Founder and put Chuck Hagele in the position of Executive Director. Much more of my time is spent speaking in churches, at conventions and anywhere I can share what PATCH can do for teens and families. I want to make it possible for parents, despite their resources, to receive world-class treatment for their family. This transition will allow me to focus on these events rather than daily organizational decisions. This transition, I feel, is in the best interest of PATCH now and in the future.

We are committed to doing what is right and best to make PATCH as effective as possible. We thank you for your past support and ask for your continued support as we expand our mission to help at-risk youth and improve family relationships.



Tom Sanford

***Would you like Tom Sanford or another PATCH staff member to speak at your church?***

The calendar is filling fast. Call 360.690.8495 or request online at our website [www.projectpatch.org/speaker](http://www.projectpatch.org/speaker).

## **PARENTING SEMINARS**

Have you considered hosting a parenting seminar at your church? Find out how at [www.projectpatch.org/Parenting](http://www.projectpatch.org/Parenting).

## **GOLDENDALE FAMILY CENTER**

The Family Center in Goldendale is available for family, church and group rentals. Consider holding your next event at our beautiful facility. We take care of the bedding, food, and making your event memorable. When the facility isn't being used for our family program, it will be available for rent. There are four cabins, eight motel rooms and five RV spaces, as well as meeting rooms, dining hall, and recreation opportunities. Call 360.690.8495 for more details.



# From the Director

I was 13 years old when Project PATCH started. At the same time that Tom and Bonnie Sanford were sadly watching kids lose their relationships and bright futures, I helplessly watched the same thing happen to some of my friends. The Sanfords responded to the warfare on kids and families by starting Project PATCH. I felt the loss of helplessly watching kids and families lose the fight.



**Chuck Hagele**

I am totally convinced of two things. The first is that kids hold a promise and potential that makes them Satan's prime target. Secondly, God passionately loves kids and works in mysterious and amazing ways to love, redeem, and restore.

The success stories at the Youth Ranch bear this out. Tall, athletic, bright, and musical, Allen\* surprisingly walked with head down, never making eye contact and only mumbling his responses. He was amazing and didn't know it. He only knew Dad chose to live with his "better" family and Mom was too busy with her career. His only friends were video gamers on the internet. I was privileged to watch him grow, not just physically, but into a young man who knows he has something to give the world and has the skills to move past his insecurities and disappointments.

Allen is no longer a worry, but my childhood friends still are. Some have found their way past destructive behaviors and relationships, but many haven't. Since 1984 the dangers to kids have only increased. Thank God, resources for troubled teens and families have also increased. The existence and history of PATCH is a testament to our God who cares and is working in the lives of kids and families. We now have a world-class Youth Ranch and a first-of-its-kind facility where the whole family can work on overcoming their challenges.

From watching helplessly at age 13 to now building on a legacy of hope and restoration at Project PATCH, my role continues to change. I never would have guessed that I would be working for PATCH and loving it so much. I am blessed to have a career that provides a place to use my training and skills in business and technology but, more importantly, allows me to see God demonstrate His daily care for kids and families. I would appreciate your prayers for wisdom, faith, and eyes to see God at work with His kids.

*\*not his real name*

# Who needs Project PATCH?

Many people erroneously think PATCH is a place for "bad kids." We know that it is a place for good kids who make poor choices and need help discovering their God-given potential and purpose. Grandparents, teachers, parents, counselors, family friends, pastors, youth leaders, or simply those in the community who care about kids all know that sometimes we need a little extra involvement to realize our potential. If you wonder if PATCH could benefit a struggling young person you know — yes, we can.

## **PATCH can help kids who struggle with...**

- ...experimentation with drugs or alcohol
- ...being drawn to negative friendships
- ...avoiding being at home
- ...isolation and avoiding social activities
- ...anger that destroys relationships or causes personal damage
- ...not succeeding in school
- ...out of control ADHD
- ...life-interfering anxiety
- ...looking for love in all the wrong places
- ...poor self identity and low confidence
- ...constantly creating drama

## **PATCH can help parents and guardians who struggle with...**

- ...not being able to keep their child safe
- ...destructive power struggles with their kids where no one is winning
- ...attachment issues from adoption or traumatic events.

**Project PATCH is dedicated to helping at-risk youth. We know you care. Please let parents know about PATCH. We can work together to help these great kids face their challenges and reach their full potential.**

# DBT, an effective approach



The youth who come to PATCH face varying issues of drama, isolation, chaos, loneliness, depression, poor grades, very poor family relationships, sexualized behavior, self-medicating, and self-harm such as cutting. Our Ranch staff has observed five key areas that need to be addressed to help kids stabilize:

- **CONFUSION ABOUT SELF** – who they are and what they want
- **IMPULSIVITY** – not considering cause and effect of their actions
- **EMOTIONAL INSTABILITY** – constant drama and negative attention-seeking behavior
- **INTERPERSONAL PROBLEMS** – attracted to negative, destructive relationships
- **PARENT-TEEN PROBLEMS** – constant family power struggles

We have implemented Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), a comprehensive treatment approach for people whose emotions create major problems in their lives (and perhaps in the lives of people around them). These emotions may be destructively expressed in angry outbursts, depression and immobility, or avoided with substance abuse, eating disorders, impulsive actions or even suicide attempts.

DBT clients are taught more skillful ways to regulate their emotions, deal with the distressing situations in their lives, and improve relationships. These skills are taught in caring treatment relationships that appreciate the kids' strengths, acknowledge their emotional sensitivity, and offer powerful, pragmatic methods for creating a "life worth living."

The staff coaches the clients on how to be responsible for their emotions. For example, often when a teen receives a distressing phone call, they become angry and perhaps yell at staff or others. Using DBT coaching techniques, we help them find a healthy alternative such as journaling, listening to music, or just a hot shower to bring the emotional level down. Once emotions aren't creating havoc, the staff and resident can focus on the source of the problem (why the phone call was so upsetting).

The parent component to DBT helps parents to coach their teenager on self-care and regulating their emotions, which improves communication and lessens power struggles.

DBT is not a fix-all; but it does empower young people by giving them skills that they can take home. DBT is a treatment approach proven to be effective in residential settings and is widely recognized among therapists and medical professionals. Most importantly, we see kids using the skills to avoid negative behaviors and build strong, positive relationships.

## Our sincere apologies...

The Foundations, Corporations, Businesses & Organizations below gave to Project PATCH in 2009 and were inadvertently omitted from the 2009 Annual Report listing in the Summer 2010 edition of *PatchWorks*. Their gifts are gratefully acknowledged.

Bank of the West  
Boise Natural Health  
Building Thinktank  
Burton Mountain Golf, LLC  
Business Psychology Associates  
Cloverdale Church of God  
Colson Real Estate Team, Inc.  
(of Boise, ID)  
Phil Drick State Farm Agency  
Duke Assistant Fund  
Employers Resource  
Insync Lifestyles  
Irish, Cardon & Bernhardt, LLP  
Irwin Rogers Insurance  
JR Simplot Company Foundation  
Kissler Family Foundation, Inc.  
MJ's Excavation, Inc.  
Oaas Laney Inc.  
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Sysco Food Services of Idaho  
Systems Group, LLC  
Titleone Corp.  
University of Phoenix  
Wal-Mart #2508, Boise, ID  
Wal-Mart #2861  
Garden City, ID  
Wal-Mart #2862, Meridian, ID



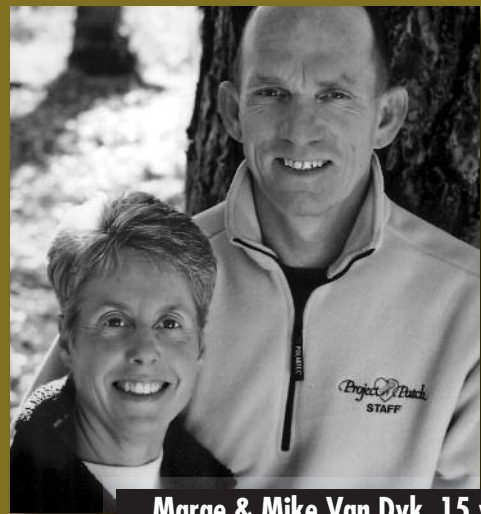
# Who's Still There?

Our PATCH staff is not average. If they were average, they would burn out from working with at-risk teens after about 18 months (the normal burnout time frame for working with at-risk youth). Instead, staff at PATCH stay an average of six years. When former residents ask if a staff member is still there, the typical answer is "Yes." The reason for this longevity is that they are well trained, work reasonable hours, receive generous time off, and rely on support from one another.

Dorm directors Mike and Marge Van Dyk began working at PATCH about the same time our current residents were born. Jim Smith, Stephanie Ross and Colleen Donald, three of our four therapists, are currently in their tenth year at PATCH. Jason Van Dyk, Spencer Walters and Gary Van Dyk were all young bachelors when they started working at PATCH. Now all three are married and all together have 35 years at PATCH. Denise Tank (13 years), NancyAnne Ward (12 years), Bob Ross (10 years) and Darlene Waybright (10 years) work behind the scenes to support the kids in the program.

We asked our staff why they stay. Their answers were inspiring and encouraging. Long-term staff have something in common: They share a providential calling to PATCH; they love variety; they enjoy working as a team; they love watching kids grow and mature; and they desire personal, authentic growth. Most of all, they have committed their lives to serving God and — He hasn't called them anyplace else!

It is inspiring to see what God can accomplish through people who commit their lives to Him. To learn more about this special group of people, visit our website at [www.projectpatch.org/whosthere](http://www.projectpatch.org/whosthere).



**Marge & Mike Van Dyk, 15 years**

**Some of our staff had this to say:**

***When I step back and ask God to use me He does amazing things. When I jump ahead of Him I can really mess things up.***

Marge Van Dyk

***I have a lot to learn, maybe more than some of these kids.***

Spencer Walters

***It's not about ME! It's about God and His special love for these children of His.***

Dori Ahlers

***Everyone is capable of making change — no matter how big or small.***

Stephanie Ross



**Sharon Fry, 8 years**

***How eager the Lord is to give us little gifts and surprises...***

Sharon Fry

## Thank yous

### **We Say "Thank You"**

*...to all the wonderful Maranatha volunteers who gave so generously of their time and talents at the Youth Ranch from May 24 through June 9 as they painted and repaired buildings and shared the love of Jesus with the kids. We love you, Maranatha Volunteers, International!*

### **Parents Say "Thank You"**

*... we cannot find adequate words to say thank you for helping Melanie\* to develop positive skills to handle life's challenges and the normal everyday inter-personal family and friend relationship ups and downs. She has grown much this year personally, academically and spiritually. Thank you to you and all of your administrative, academic and counseling colleagues!*

*Sincerely, Grateful Parents*

*\*not her real name*



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### **In This Issue. . .**

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**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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Tom Sanford and NancyAnne Ward

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Marge VanDyk, and Dustin Young

## **P R O J E C T P A T C H W I S H L I S T S**

### **GARDEN VALLEY RANCH**

- TRACTOR, MINIMUM OF 50 HP  
NEED WORKING PTO (USED) .....\$20,000
- PHONE SYSTEM & WIRING .....\$10,000
- HAY BAILER (USED) .....\$5,000
- GRAVEL FOR RANCH ROAD  
(EST. 15 LOADS, 12 YARDS/LOAD @ \$200/LOAD) ...\$3,000
- UPGRADE KITCHEN FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM ...\$1,800
- ELECTRIC AUGER (FOR SEWERS) WITH 75-100' CABLE,  
3/8" TO 1/2" DIAMETER .....\$800
- NOTEBOOK COMPUTERS  
(FOR COUNSELING DEPT) (2) EACH .....\$800
- ACOUSTICAL GUITAR (GENTLY USED IS FINE) .....\$300
- MECHANICS TOOL SET .....\$250
- GIRLS' BICYCLES, (3) EA .....\$70
- ITUNES GIFT CERTIFICATE (TO DOWNLOAD MUSIC) ...\$50
- BASKETBALLS, (10) EACH .....\$30
- HOCKEY STICKS, (20) EACH .....\$30
- VOLLEY BALLS, (8) EACH .....\$20
- YARD RAKES, MEDIUM, (12) EACH .....\$15

### **GOLDENDALE FAMILY GROWTH CENTER**

- POWER LINES TO NEW SHOP .....\$16,000
- FIXTURES FOR NEW BATHHOUSE .....\$12,000
- GUARD RAILING FOR WATERFALL .....\$10,000
- SIDE-BY-SIDE ATV/MULE (USED OKAY) .....\$8,000
- SEPTIC SYSTEM FOR SHOP .....\$6,000
- CONCRETE PARKING PADS FOR RV SITES (5) EA .....\$1,000
- VOLUNTEERS SKILLED IN CONSTRUCTION, PLUMBING, SIDING,  
PAINTING AND FINISH CARPENTRY .....PRICELESS!
- VOLUNTEERS ANYTIME .....PRICELESS!

## **PROJECT PATCH BOUQUETS**

*May God continue to bless you and your work*

A, Oregon

*Thank you for the work you do in rehabilitating  
troubled youth. God bless you all.* R & N, Oregon

*I have personally witnessed changed lives for the good.  
May God's blessings continue.* D, Washington

*Thank you so much for your care and love...we pray  
for you all the time.* L, Oregon