

In Brief

MOVING OR CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

Please let us know if you move or change your address. Project PATCH must pay extra postage on all returned mail. The cost of returns could be better used to help kids and families. Thank you.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The Seventh Annual **Match for PATCH** golf tournament is scheduled for **June 8, 2011**. Watch our website for details and sign-up links. Let's make this our best ever tournament!

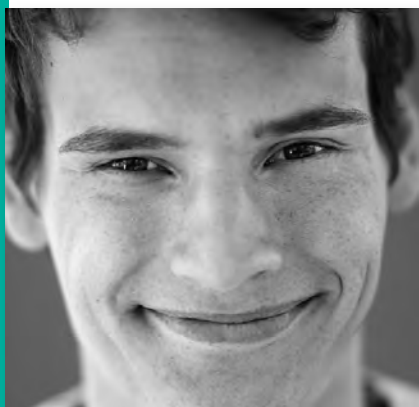


PATCH *works!*

Are they Miracles?

Each day at PATCH we see changes in kids' lives. Some might call them breakthroughs or therapeutic goals being achieved. We call them miracles. What do you think?

When Lea first came to PATCH she thought God was boring and didn't see the point of believing in God. Everyone in Lea's life had let her down, why should she trust God? She told Jeanie, a staff member in the girls' dorm, she didn't understand how God cared about her. Jeanie shared with Lea how God had been there for her when she was lost and alone. Lea looked sheepishly at Jeanie and said that maybe she would start praying and see what God might do for her.



Sean, who hadn't done very well in our program and had been drifting through life after leaving PATCH, called to say he wanted a better life and was working on his issues now and realized he needed what PATCH had tried to teach him. Now Sean is in the Navy and grateful for the structure and care he had received at PATCH.

During a recent counseling session Melissa confronted issues of abuse in her past which she had kept secret for years -- scared to share what had happened to her. Now Melissa is on the path to finding healing.

Laura, the new Assistant Development Director, while walking through the Garden Valley campus recently was amazed that even children who were shoveling snow because of consequences of their behavior still had good attitudes.

And the most thrilling miracle of all is Jessica who is about to graduate the program. Eight months ago the staff was wondering if PATCH was the right place for her, as Jessica's emotional acting out seemed almost beyond the scope of PATCH. But, through therapy, structure, staff interaction and much prayer, Jessica has found that with God on her side, she could face her past and begin her future.

Do these look like miracles to you? They do to us.



Think DBT

*Managing my anger was
a goal for me,
At home I was as out of
control as can be
I was hiding from the
painful life I had lived,
I was abused and abandoned
when I was a kid.
Drugs and sex were my only
answer and friend,
I was going down a path that
seemed to have no end.
I would scream, yell, cuss, and fight,
I never wanted to be wrong; I always had
to be right.
When people tried to help me I would turn
my cheek,
I didn't want to be seen as troubled or weak.*

*I was sent to PATCH last fall,
At first I didn't accept it at all.
I have learned many skills in dealing with rage.
I now do not feel like I'm locked in World's cage.
I read, sing, play games, and run,
I have learned that life can be a lot of fun.
So next time I feel like life is no match for me,
I can close my eyes and think DBT.*

By a current resident



DBT (DIALECTICAL BEHAVIOR THERAPY) HELPS WITH CHALLENGES SUCH AS:

Confusion

Impulsivity

Emotional instability

Parent-teen problems

Interpersonal problems

For more information please go to www.projectpatch.org/dbt

Help for Families

Have you noticed that as soon as you buy a car, you see that same car everywhere? Project PATCH hasn't bought a new car, but we have a brand new Family Center in Goldendale, Washington, and everywhere we look we see families that could benefit from spending time there.

What do these families look like? They look pretty normal, they are the families that live next to you, go to school with your kids, work with you, or attend church with you. They want the best for their kids and are trying hard but seem to be moving backwards rather than forwards.

They may also be experiencing challenges like single parenting, blending families after remarriage, coping with ADHD, fighting with cancer or other illness, or still are in shock after the death of a family member. These challenges require a family to function at a very high level, yet many families unravel and fracture. The kids we see at Project PATCH Youth Ranch often bear the scars of family challenges that were never addressed.

How can PATCH help? During the four to seven day **Family Experience**, families won't be fixed, they'll return home with the same challenges—regardless if the challenge is cancer, ADHD, single parenting or too



Families will leave the experience with:

- A clearer understanding of roles and personalities that make up the family
- Ways to communicate that lead to understanding and being heard
- Agreement on what the family values and wants to protect
- How to solve problems and work through disagreements
- Ideas for activities that will bring them closer

many parents. However, the family will leave with hope, confidence and skills to face the challenge.

The **Family Experience** will not involve long hours of sitting around complaining about each other or long lectures. Instead, time will be spent doing activities that either reveal a need for new skills or provide time to practice different ways of doing things. Families will interact with other families that are facing similar challenges. The **Family Experience** will be led by Jim Smith, MA with over 10 years' experience helping at-risk teens and families at Project PATCH Youth Ranch. Expert counselors who have worked extensively helping families will also work with Jim to provide very specific insight and help.

What now? The buildings are complete; the furnishings are going into place. We have an amazing staff that is ready to serve. We are asking you to consider three things.

- 1** Could your family use some help with a challenge they are facing?
- 2** Do you know any families that would benefit from attending the **Family Experience**?
- 3** Would you like to make it possible for families who can't afford the program to attend?

If you answered YES to any of these three questions, please call us at 360-690-8495 or visit our website at www.projectpatch.org/family_experience.

IT'S "GOD'S WORK"

We are continually amazed and surprised at how the PATCH program touches the lives of others. Here are two letters we received: one from grandparents who marveled at how the PATCH program impacted the life of their grandson, and another from a pastoral couple who were advocates in placing a young man at PATCH.

It is a humbling experience to be a part of doing God's work. Each time we hear about how PATCH has impacted the lives of others we are reminded how much we depend on God's grace. Each of us plays a part to help hurting teens find their way.

WHAT ARE "THINKING ERRORS"?

Thinking errors are used to distort reality to make it fit with current momentary desires. It is just

human nature to try to stay comfortable. So when people begin to feel uncomfortable, they will often move into some type of thinking pattern that makes them feel better about themselves, about life, or about others. This can be done in an honest, open way, or it can be done through "thinking errors."

For more information and other examples please go to projectpatch.org/thinkingerrors.

Recently, we were the happy, thankful grandparents of Justin - witnessing his graduation from "Patch." It was just a wonderful, joyous day for us, for his parents, and also for Justin!!

I really wish I had lots of money to donate to your program in Garden Valley, but we raised six of our own children and always needed to budget our money carefully - and we still do. But we know God is listening and hears our prayers for all of you. We do not share some of the same religious beliefs, because we are Catholics, but I am even more convinced we are all trying to do God's work as best we can.

Thank you for your efforts and caring and love and example to the young people that are entrusted to your care.

Our Justin is working at Target in California now and has been to the junior college to pre-enroll and seems happy with himself. My husband and I will visit them soon in California and see for ourselves.

I have a copy of your "thinking errors" and will give to most of our 20 grandchildren.

Sincerely, a Grandmother

Dear Staff Members at Project Patch,
Thank you for the wonderful work that each one of you is doing. You are so dedicated to your calling, and care so much for our young people. We wish to congratulate you on what you are doing.

We were involved with Tony, and personally brought him to Project PATCH. Last year we were pastors at the church where Tony is a member. We still have contact with him and have noticed that the year at Project PATCH was a life-changing experience for him.

We have noticed that he can now communicate, his self-image has improved, and he feels more secure about himself. He wrote us a beautiful card – thanking us for caring for him. He also knows what he wants to be one day – a paramedic. Before, he did not communicate and did not know what he wanted to do after finishing high school. Tony really enjoyed being a student at Project PATCH and he loves all of you. His whole outlook has changed; I could see he felt he belonged and he had some significance.

We continue to pray for God's blessing on the school and staff, and we thank God for your service!

Yours faithfully,
Drs. Gerhard and Emilie Van Wyk



A Clean Slate

We passed the recent site visit by the State of Idaho Department of Health and Welfare with flying colors — thanks to the Maranatha volunteers who worked at the Garden Valley Youth Ranch in May 2010 to perform needed repairs and maintenance on all buildings. The inspectors checked each and every building on the property and found nothing amiss. We are so grateful to the volunteers for their dedication to excellence and their faithfulness to Project PATCH. May God continue to bless each and every volunteer and the entire Maranatha organization for their loving service to God and His work.



Alumni Adventures



PATCH Alumni are keeping busy. Their reported activities run the gamut from raising honeybees for California's

agriculture to shoveling snow in the deep Midwest freeze.

John (PATCH '96) called to say that he has a honeybee business. Every spring he travels with his hives to California to help pollinate for all of the agricultural growers of Central California. He loves his work.

Jonathon (PATCH '08) joined the Navy. He asks for prayers while serving his country.

Austin (PATCH '10) has joined his high school wrestling team and informed Ranch staff of his meet schedule so that they could pray for him and perhaps attend a match.

Lizette (PATCH '02) is managing a doctor's office, lives at home and enjoys a positive life.

Anthony (PATCH '10) has been shoveling snow during this latest very cold snap on the east coast. He states that life is going well, that shoveling snow reminded him of winters at PATCH and that overall he is content.

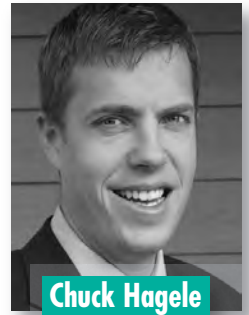
Devon (PATCH '02) graduated from Auburn Adventist Academy, went to Union College where he was a dean's list student and is now working in Alaska.

We are proud of our alumni. They worked hard at PATCH and continue to work hard in whatever their chosen path. We ask that you continue to pray for their success.



From the Director

Lunch is over, tables are cleared and a group of girls are "racking" their trays and plates on the counter by the dishwasher. The girls laugh, finish stories, and try to catch-up while waiting at the door. The stacks of plates, cups, and bowls are high, leaning precariously and wobbling. The last girl carefully adds her plate and steps back. One plate slips and all the piles begin to crash down. She watches helplessly as every plate, cup and bowl scatters across the floor. The group quietly gathers around the mess and help pick it up.



Chuck Hagele

I share this story because at PATCH we typically see kids at the point that life has come crashing down. The final straw isn't always even a major event but everything still crashes down. As we help kids pick up the pieces, we wish we could have helped before, helped them clear away, helped them build on a more secure foundation. But instead, they come to us after their pile collapses.

PATCH will always help pick up the pieces and teach the kids skills to manage life; however, we now are doing some purposeful things to try to help earlier.

One of those things is our new Family Center in Goldendale, Washington. (*see story on page 3*) During a four to seven day experience, the whole family will learn new methods to manage challenges like: single parenting, blended families, loss of a loved one, illness, ADHD, or just family stress. The fun and active **Family Experience** will focus on gaining insight and skills and could very well be a turning point for many families.

Over the past 27 years, we have learned a great deal about helping kids and families. We want to share that information with your church and your community because you are often the only help others have.

As you read this newsletter you will learn about this great mission that God has given Project PATCH, to restore troubled youth and build stronger families. Even more than learning, I hope you are challenged to get involved and join us in this great project.

PATCH Bouquets

Thank you so much for helping the youth who get on a dangerous path.
J, Oregon

Thank you for all you do for "troubled" youth, including our grandson. Praying that the Holy Spirit, through all of you, bring healing to him and bring him from resentment to gratitude.

B&B, Idaho

Love the photos in your flyers!
D, Oregon

God bless you and the youth.
F&V, Montana

Enclosed is a donation in memory of a 93-year-old hospice patient I cared for recently. Sweet little lady whose hope was in Jesus. Thank you for all you are doing to help youth "get on with their lives."
M, Oregon

Thankfulness for the work that has people doing what God can do for youth with your help. Praise God and bless you all.
D&M, California

God bless your special mission for the children and families you serve.
J, Montana

What you have done for my son and me is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your love and kindness.
C, Idaho

May God continue to be with your ministry as you heal the hurting children of this world.
D&T, Florida

I appreciate all the wonderful work you do with our youth.
H, California

From the Founder

Unless a miracle happens, your children will treat and respect you in your old age in direct proportion to the treatment and respect you gave them in their childhood. During parenting seminars at churches, schools and camp meetings I help parents recognize the value of the moldable mind and life they are responsible to raise. Often I have parents ask themselves this important question: *Are my actions and discipline such that when my child leaves home he will look forward to coming back to visit or will he hate the memory of his childhood so much he greets me with hostility and treats me with contempt?* I then present methods to help them be more strategic in their parenting skills rather than impulsive in their response to given incidents.



Tom Sanford

Sometimes to break the ice I ask the audience to share the most memorable "pet peeve" of their childhood. One time a middle-aged lady's hand bolted skyward in response. "My biggest pet peeve was that whenever my mother asked me to do something and I refused she would start crying. She would do that even if we had company. She embarrassed me into doing what she wanted."

Her teenage daughter then raised her hand in mock defiance. "Whenever my mom asks me to do something and I refuse, she cries until I cave in and do it so she will stop. It is soooooo embarrassing."

Aha, so there *are* some inherited or observed habits we pick up from our parents. Like it or not. The key is to separate the ones we like from the ones we dislike. Or, better yet, take an honest look at the behaviors and words that irritate our spouses, children or friends and modify them so our great-great grandchildren do not look back in their ancestry and blame their behavior on us.

Many of the strategies I teach in the parenting seminars are in the book I wrote entitled: *If Parenting is a Three Ring Circus, How Come I'm Not the Ringmaster?* So, if your church doesn't have a schedule for hosting a parenting seminar you can get the book directly from Project PATCH. (PATCH owns the rights to the book and therefore all the money goes directly to PATCH.)

To learn more or schedule Tom Sanford for a parenting seminar, go to www.projectpatch.org/seminar call us at 360-690-8495.





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In This Issue. . .

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Think DBT

Help for Families

Doing God's Work

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

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PROJECT PATCH WISH LISTS

GARDEN VALLEY RANCH



- YARD RAKES, MEDIUM, (12) EA\$ 15
- VOLLEY BALLS, (8) EA 20
- GIRLS' BICYCLES, (3) EA70
- HAY BALER (USED)5,000
- GRAVEL FOR RANCH ROAD (EST. 15 LOADS, 12 YARDS/LOAD @ \$200/LOAD)3,000
- HOCKEY STICKS, (20) EA20
- BASKETBALLS, (10) EA20
- PHONE SYSTEM & WIRING10,000

GOLDENDALE FAMILY GROWTH CENTER

- WATER SOFTENER SYSTEM\$8,400
- AV EQUIPMENT FOR CLASSROOMS5,000
- SAFETY FENCE FOR WATERFALL4,000
- GRAVEL FOR ROAD/DRIVEWAYS3,500
- ROLLER FOR WINDOW BETWEEN KITCHEN & DINING ROOM800
- DINING ROOM CHAIRS (56)2,000
- PLANTS AND FLOWERS750
- ROPES COURSE1,500
- PLAYGROUND1,500
- WELDER (WIRE-FEED)2,800
- SIDE-BY-SIDE ATV/MULE (USED OKAY)8,000
- VOLUNTEERS SKILLED IN CONSTRUCTION, PLUMBING, SIDING, PAINTING & FINISH CARPENTRYPRICELESS!