

Teen Chooses Hard Work Over Giving Up

My name is Pasquale Fraumeni and I am 17 years old. I am from Downingtown, Pennsylvania. I did not know that I was coming to Project PATCH in Garden Valley, Idaho. I thought that I was just simply going on a surprise vacation with my parents. I was brought to PATCH on August 26, 2013, because of my anger, disrespect to authority, drug and alcohol abuse. I was angry at my dad, and I had a terrible relationship with my mother.

My first four months here were pretty rough. I still held in all of the anger and bitterness that I had inside of me. I got most of this anger from my dad, and all of the fights that we had. Also, I did not want to talk to anyone about my problems or my feelings with anyone that was trying to help me. When I was in the process of doing this I got exactly the opposite of what I wanted. Everyone was trying to talk to me and ask me what was wrong. Instead, I just wanted people to leave me alone.

When I first arrived, I didn't care about anything anymore; and I was on the verge of just giving up. I wanted to just flat out refuse, but I didn't do that. I did not refuse because I had this feeling that I wanted to make everyone that I'd let down around me proud. I felt as if I had let everyone down leading up to the point of my PATCH placement. I did not want to give up just because I was being selfish.

So about my second month, I started to come out of my shell a little bit more than I did in my first month. I started to goof around with other peers of mine in the dorm. I was getting low scores because I was not doing what I needed to do. I was also not taking the program seriously enough as I should have. Prior to my placement, I had a real big problem with not doing my chores. Whenever my mom or dad would ask me to do something around the house, I would just



▲ Pasquale "Pat" Fraumeni gets ready to graduate from the Youth Ranch

blow them off or just simply ignore them. My parents would get pretty upset when I did this to them. So at the beginning of my stay I would just not do my chores or I would not do them to the best of my ability. I would always get lectures from staff about why chores are so important. They also taught me that responsibility was an important trait to learn now as a teenager and be able to demonstrate it as well. I was also very reluctant to learn from the program.

When I first got here I thought that I did not have a problem, and that I didn't need any help from anybody. You could definitely say that I was very cocky, and that I had an entitlement problem. I felt like I was entitled to bigger and better things than what my other peers had. I felt like I deserved better things than everybody else.

Around my four-month mark in December, my therapist, Rob, had sat me down and explained to me that since I had a very poor attitude and that my scores

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Cares & Prayers

May God richly bless your work! – **W.C.**

Keep up your good work for the Lord. – **J.P.**

Thank you for the priceless gift you have given to so many young people in need. God Bless! – **P.B.**

Dear volunteers and members of the board that put on the delicious banquet and invited Jamie Jorge to play: I thoroughly enjoyed the evening and was thrilled to see so many supporters come out. – **C.S.**

Although we haven't been able to support Project Patch before now financially, we do pray for this ministry and think you are doing a wonderful work for our young people in need. We hope this ministry can continue to grow as God blesses. – **E.H.**

You do a great work and we appreciate you. – **F.S.**

To all staff: Thank you for all your work and efforts to help keep things running smoothly. All you do on a daily basis is greatly appreciated. Each person I have spoken with over the phone has always been an encouragement and supportive. God bless all of you. – **T.W.**

When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them. Sometime, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you. – **D.W.**

God bless you all for your effort to help young people get their lives back on track. – **E.M.**

To share your PATCH experiences and offer encouragement and support to our staff, email info@projectpatch.org, or write to us at 2404 E Mill Plain Blvd., Suite A, Vancouver, WA 98661.

Tools of the Trade: Parenting Tip - Back to School

This is back to school week for many schools around the country. It can be a scary time for children, but it can also be a fun time. Parents can help ease the transition to school for their children. What can parents do?

Go to bed early. This is especially important the first week of school to help children establish a routine.

Get up early. There may be several things children forget at the last minute: lunches, bus numbers, supplies, etc. Getting up early will help minimize forgetfulness and increase confidence in children.

Clear your schedule. There are lots of details to deal with during the first week of school, such as schedules, notes from teachers, and permission slips. Clearing your schedule will free you to take care of these items.

Emphasize fun. If you have grade school children, check out the classroom for things they appreciate—such as animals, decorations and colors, or a special place—and mention that to your child.

Meet the Teachers. You don't have to wait for open house to meet the teachers. You can introduce yourself to them after school. The same goes for office personnel and administrators. Ask them what their needs are and how you can help them.

Review the Day. After school, set aside time to ask your child about his or her day. Listen to their excitement and concerns. Review their classes and express your interest in their learning.

Make Homework Enjoyable. Homework can be drudgery, but it can be made more enjoyable if you are proactive. Establish a good time of day to do homework. Is it before dinner or after dinner? Lighten the mood by helping your child get a snack and removing distractions such as television. And make sure you are available to help.

by Dr. Shawn Anderson

Get Away, Get Together



Refuge in the Storm

We needed a place of refuge. Our family was under stress and we needed help. But where were we to turn?

I prayed.

A few days later, I received the Project Patch newsletter and a light-bulb reaction occurred. Could this be the answer? I called and talked to Jessica. She was easy to talk to, and after a couple more phone calls and talking with my husband, Jessica set things into motion and a date was set.

We arrived late at night due to my husband's work schedule, and there was Jeremy welcoming us with open arms.

Breakfast was great, as were all the meals, thanks to Linda and her help. Hospitality Director is a good title for Linda because she is very hospitable and thoughtful. The lodge and landscape set us at ease; but I have to admit, we were not sure what would happen next.

Paul and his wife, Shannon, began an insightful journey in an unthreatening way. Both my husband and I learned some things about ourselves, and also about our children, to help with better communication and an awareness of triggers that cause conflict. I loved how the two of them worked together and made themselves vulnerable to us, sharing things that worked and didn't work in their own family, as well as in Paul's private practice.

We have raised one family and now God has given us two young grandchildren to raise, unexpectedly, and it hasn't been easy. They were victims of the trauma of drug and alcohol abuse and all it entails. We went through it with our adopted son, and now, his children. I pray that with God's help the generational drug and alcohol chain will be broken; and these precious children will have healthy, happy families. Thank you, Project Patch, for your help. We ask for your continued prayers and we will pray for your ministry to other families who are endangered. ~ Anonymous Grandparent

Growth Factors

There are not enough "thank yous" for what you have offered us here; a chance to change our family dynamics and leave a more positive legacy to our children and theirs, etc.

Thank you for sharing knowledge, intelligence, and compassion with all the coaching. And thank you for understanding that nutritional nourishment is important to emotional growth. What an amazing place to come. ~ N.F.

Upcoming Family Experience Weekends

- September 12-14
- October 17-19
- November 14-16 and 21-23
- December 5-7 and 19-21

Be sure to check our "Events Calendar" online at www.projectpatch.org for current information on upcoming weekends, seminars, and other events.

We acknowledge that approaching another family, your church, or even your own family about attending The Family Experience can be a challenge. For ideas and suggestions, please see our website for tips on how to facilitate this conversation:

www.thefamilyexperience.org/tips



Fruit Pizza

Delicious! And good for you, too!

Summer is the best time to try this recipe since fresh fruits are in season.

CRUST:

¼ cup butter

1 1/3 cup all-purpose flour

½ cup shortening

1 teaspoon cream of tartar

1 cup sugar

½ teaspoon baking soda

¼ teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon baking powder

1 egg

1 teaspoon vanilla

Step 1: Mix butter, shortening, sugar & egg until fluffy.

Step 2: Add all dry ingredients.

Step 3: Press into deep dish pizza pan or cookie sheet

Step 4: Bake 8-10 minutes at 400 degrees. (DO NOT OVER BAKE!)

Step 5: Cool for 15-20 minutes

Step 6: Mix topping:

8 oz. cream cheese, softened

½ cup sugar

2 tablespoons fruit juice

(orange juice with some orange zest is great)

1 teaspoon vanilla

½ teaspoon almond extract

Step 7: Spread topping all over the top of the crust

Step 8: Top with decorating fruit on top. You can design it anyway you want .

Example: American Flag with red, white, and blue.

Suggested fruit to use: Strawberries, blueberries, kiwi, peaches, pineapple, blackberries, raspberries.

Choose which fruits you want to use and be creative!

Hosting Tip: Practice Daily

First, we must be the best host or hostess possible to Christ, our unseen guest, every day.

Second, we need to prepare and look for opportunities to be hospitable. Sharing our homes with guests becomes easier with practice. Just like anything you endeavor to do: sports, cooking, sewing, and music; hospitality takes practice, too! Romans 12:13 even says that we should "practice hospitality."

Source: *Martha's Kentucky Cookin'*



It is an honor to announce the winners of our Family Experience Essay Contest:

Sheril Fetter and Brandy Brunson

We're very excited to have you and your families join us at

The Family Life and Conference Center.

The Artist's Corner

Residents Put Their Hearts Into Art Class!

Incredible Journey

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change my thinking patterns around.

My notes also show that although I've never gotten the loving father that I have always wanted, I have found him in my Savior. And always, when I have needed a father-figure, He's supplied me with one. He supplied one during my high school years, when I needed one so badly. The list goes on and on. Every time I needed someone, even though sometimes I didn't realize it until after the fact that I needed one, God was faithful in looking out for me and sending me a father-figure who was honest and someone who I could lean on when I needed to.

I would definitely not be where I am today. I don't think I would even be alive if it weren't for the fact that my mother was willing to admit that something was going on and she couldn't fix it. She searched relentlessly and found help for both of us.

Patch did so much for me; the entire staff gave me the keys to get my life together again, to be happy, and to be excited about life. I can't even pretend to be so angry at someone as to hurt them. I can't even dream now of taking my own life, there's just too much to live for even if the world around me is falling apart.

I am different, and I'm thankful for all those who helped me discover the real me.

~Kristine Miller



Heart of It All

Medium: Salt over Watercolor

Lesson: Applications of organic materials over liquid mediums create intricate, organic patterns and change the overall persona of the painting.

Artist's Note: Life was filled with dark black stuff, so bad I couldn't breathe. Now my heart is clean and the light is overcoming the dark and surrounding me.



Broken Rage

Medium: Salt over Acrylic

Lesson: Texture can add or detract from 2-D work as easily as too much or too little.

Artist's Note: My heart is broken; I have just a little hope. They tell me to hang on and grow.

Alumni Weekends 2014

- September 26-28 — Boys' Alumni Family Weekend — Goldendale, WA
- October 10-12 — Girls' Alumni Family Weekend — Goldendale, WA

Be sure to check our "Events Calendar" online at www.projectpatch.org for current information on upcoming weekends, seminars, and other events.

I Will Survive ...

Come on world, try to get me.
I will survive.
Bring on your yelling, your kicking, your attitude.
I will survive.
Bring on your lies, your absence, your drinking.
I will survive.
Bring on your slaps, your hitting, your beatings.
I will survive.
I know you don't want me.
I know you could care less.
If you cared, you'd get help.
I did.
I have faith now.
I will survive.
I will survive.
I will survive . . .

~Anonymous Youth Ranch resident

New Life

A Parent's Thank You

There are so many lost youth out there, and my heart goes out to them. I will be eternally grateful to the help you gave our daughter, who was one of the "lost" and you helped return her to us.

I just got back late last night from being in the city, and experiencing the joy of becoming a GRANDMA! My daughter gave birth to a PERFECT and beautiful baby boy! She is a joy to be with, and she wouldn't have been this way if there hadn't been a Project PATCH to help us get through that dark stage of her teen life.

Today, she is mature, articulate, thoughtful, and sensitive to the needs of others. She is a wonderful and caring wife, and now a mother to a tiny, beautiful baby boy. It was such a joy to experience this time with her and her husband. I give thanks to ALL of you continually, for bringing her back to us! ~B.C.

PATCH Snaps

Ranch residents enjoy a variety of summer activities!



Wish List

Below is the current wish list for Project Patch. If you are interested in helping us fulfill these needs, please call us at 360-690-8495, or email info@projectpatch.org.

Youth Ranch

- Drill-Doctor (1) ½ funded- Thank you! — \$30
- One more girl's bicycle — \$70
- Hockey sticks — \$300
- Orchard fruit trees — \$320
- 5 bikes for boys' dorm — \$350
- 1 to 7 laptops — \$400-\$2,800
- Cheese grinder/shredder for mixer — \$500
- Hay baler feeder converter (alfalfa to grass) — \$500
- 4 to 6 nice guitars (2-3 each dorm) — \$750
- Truck tires — \$800
- Repair of air leak in fire suppression system — \$800
- Therapist continuing education — \$2,500
- Two-post car lift (10,000-lb. capacity) — \$2,950
- New carpet for the office — \$4,100
- Phone system & wiring — \$10,000

Family Center

- Small hand mixer — \$30
- Light-weight folding tables (6-8) — \$240
- BBQ (propane) — \$600
- Folding chairs (11 to 24) — \$350 to \$750
- Sound system - \$850
- Deck furniture (table w/ chairs) — \$1,200
- Greenhouse (used) — \$2,000
- MacBook Pro - \$2,250
- Wi-Fi enabled commercial copier/printer (1) — \$2,500
- 2 basketball hoops (in-ground) - \$3,000
- Gravel for roads — \$3,500

Vancouver Office

- Kitchen floor repair — volunteer, material, donations



Rated “E” for Excellent

Project Patch recently caught up with Kevin James, a father who attended one of our parenting seminars earlier this year, to follow up and see if the seminar had made any impact with his family. Here is what he had to say about the information and tools he and his wife came away with:

Patch: What did you hope to gain from attending this seminar?

Kevin: We were hoping to gain new ways of looking at things, to see teen-parenting in a new light. The topic was relevant for us as both our kids are approaching their teen years. We were also specifically looking for tools to keep communication open with them.

Patch: And did you gain it?

Kevin: YES! We gained what we'd hoped for and more. It was very informative, kept our attention, and was even funny at times! Chuck Hagele, the presenter, had a great sense of humor. I loved the info-graphics used! Especially the '3-R's slide' showing the increasing and decreasing levels of responsibility for parent and child over time, and it helped me understand some other family cases I had seen in the past in the area of 'failed launches.' The visuals gave real clarity to that idea.

Patch: What was the most impactful/helpful part of this seminar?

Kevin: Actually, there were several highlights for me: First, it was definitely the 'shoulder-to-shoulder' communication with teens. Since a face-to-face encounter is more threatening and turns the teen away, try doing an activity together side-by-side and talking through things that way. We've found this tool of 'doing while talking' to be excellent with our teenager, even if it's just sitting on the swing and talking. The second impactful highlight for me was the concept of 'good kids, or great adults?' I really found the discussion around that topic quite thought-provoking! And, I guess the third major thing I took away with me was the 'managing the risk' concept, and the idea of 'giving them a chance to fail.'

Patch: Would you recommend this seminar to a friend?

Kevin: Definitely! Absolutely!! There is value long after having attended this seminar event. We held on to our seminar handouts and notes and are using them as reference tools! The whole package of the seminar: Life Ready Kids, Technology Invading my Home, and Grand-parenting: Parenting Again, was excellent! It was packed with information, and we got some tools that helped us know what kinds of things the kids are thinking about, and helps guide our questions, thus keeping conversations open or diffusing situations. I rate it as 'Excellent' in all categories!

Consider the impact you can make on your church, school, or community by partnering with us to host a seminar in your city. For more information, call us at: 360-690-8495, or go to www.projectpatch.org/seminars.

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weren't the best, that my Boise **leave** (see PATCH Definitions below) that I had planned had been downgraded into a Garden Valley leave. This made me really angry at the fact that I didn't snap out of all my negative behaviors. So at this, I decided to turn my attitude around. I finally started doing my chores to the best of my abilities, and started getting higher scores. When my therapist saw this, he let me spend a day with my parents in Boise. This day also happened to be my father's and my birthday. I was so happy.

I also remember around my fifth or sixth-month mark, we all got on dorm **closure** (see PATCH Definitions below) because there was some inappropriate talk going on when we had an off-campus sledding trip. I should have held my peers accountable and we would have never gotten on closure. I had already started to become very depressed because I felt like I was never going to get out of PATCH. I felt like I was going to stay in treatment longer than my year mark because I was so immature and had no self-control. Closure really hit me hard when all of my depression was going on, and I felt like I should have just given up. There had to be a way out of this place, I kept saying to myself. I kept on trying to give myself hope, and show myself that there was light at the end of the tunnel.

On about my seventh-month mark, I had my first home visit. It went fairly well with my parents, and I had good interactions with them. My parents still had trouble with asking me to do chores or clean something up around the house. I would just complain or ignore them as I usually did when I was home. I knew at that point in time that I was not ready to come home for good. I knew I still had a lot of work to do. After I returned I began doing better in the program. I was doing well with my chores and getting high scores. I was also doing well with my counseling, relationships with my parents and peers. I was breezing through all of my schoolwork with an ambition of success.

Around my tenth-month mark, I went on my second and final homeleave and it went great. I rarely had any conflicts with my parents. I also did all of my chores and did all of the tasks that my parents had laid out for me to do. My parents had told me that it was really a 180-degree turn around for me in my life.

If it weren't for PATCH I would not be where I am today in the relationship I have with my family. I feel as if my life actually has purpose now.

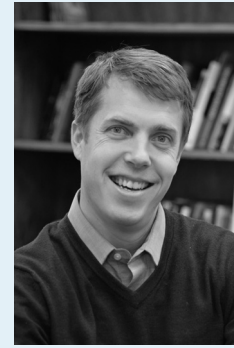
Currently, I have two weeks until my graduation ceremony and I am finishing up all of the schoolwork that I need to get done in order to receive the credits that I need to graduate from high school when I get home. I am also in the process of finishing up my senior project for high school here. I am also finishing up all of my counseling assignments that my counselor is giving me.

What made me change as an individual? Honestly, two people. Those people are God, and I. If it weren't for God, I would not be where I am at in my life today. All of my hard work would be worth nothing if it weren't for God and His amazing works through me. I also genuinely wanted to change the way that I lived my life because I was honestly tired of the way I used to live. I now want to go on the right track to success. I also want to go back to Downingtown, Pennsylvania, so that I can start to live my life with all of the skills that I have learned here at PATCH and put them to use. I want to start my life on the right track, instead of the life that I used to live!

PATCH Definitions

- **Leave:** After clients have been in the program for at least 3 months, they can become eligible for an off-campus trip with their family, depending on how their behaviors have been.
- **Closure:** Clients are expected to hold each other accountable for their behaviors, and encourage each other to make healthy choices. When a group is not functioning well and holding each other accountable, they can be placed on "closure". Closure is a time when clients have restricted boundaries and loss of privileges as a whole group. The goals behind a time of closure is to provide the clients with an opportunity to reflect on how their behaviors, good or bad, impact their community/family, the need for accountability and rules, leadership, responsibility, integrity, and honesty.

Piecing It Together



by Chuck Hagele,
Executive Director

There are certain traditions that signal that it is summer. Some of my favorites are the smells of summer including sunscreen, barbecues, and fresh-cut hay. I also track my summer by the fruit that I eat as I transition through a season filled with raspberries, blueberries, apricots, nectarines, and finally those amazing free-stone peaches.

This year, I'm breaking a summer tradition in this newsletter. Typically, our summer edition was a combination of a regular newsletter and some other elements unique to our Annual Report.

At Project Patch, we strive to provide a very high level of accountability and transparency to you, our donors and supporters. In that effort, we conduct an annual audit by a non-profit specialty public accounting firm. We also fully comply with the US Government requirements in filing our 990 tax return, which is an information-return highlighting key accountability areas for non-profits. Finally, we also participate voluntarily on GuideStar, a website which tracks non-profit accountability.

Rather than spending money to snail-mail our Annual Report to you, we are putting it on our website for your convenient review. Go to: www.projectpatch.org/2013_annual_report. We encourage you to take a look and let us know if you have any questions.

One of the reasons I don't own a pool is that I'd like to spend my summer swimming rather than cleaning a pool. In the same way, at Project Patch, we'd like to spend our time helping and writing about kids and families that inspire us rather than focusing on numbers.

I hope you continue to enjoy your summer and are also encouraged by the stories in this issue of lives impacted by your generosity and God's faithfulness.

In This Issue:

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- The Family Experience Essay Contest Winner
- "I Will Survive ..."
- PATCHsnaps, and more ...

Wish List

We maintain a list of things we need and want at each of our locations, so supporters know how they can best provide for our needs. Check out our current list on page 6 of this newsletter.

Patch Blog

It's easy to stay connected with Patch through our blog, written regularly by Executive Director Chuck Hagele. Twice weekly he'll share a thoughtful post focused on parenting, family issues, and more. Subscribe to receive posts via email or through your RSS reader. Check it out today at blog.projectpatch.org.

Invite us to Speak

Interested in having a PATCH staff member speak for your group? Visit projectpatch.org/seminars to request a speaker today!

PATCH Prayer Warriors

Sign up to become a Prayer Warrior for Patch and receive monthly emails with updated requests and praises from all three Patch locations (Garden Valley, Goldendale, Vancouver). Then, join us in prayer for these special requests throughout the next month. Sign up today by visiting projectpatch.org/signup.



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Help Us Save Money!

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Incredible Journey

Everyone I talk to now tells me that there is no way that I could have been a troubled teen when I was younger. They are completely shocked when I tell them what I was like just a few years ago.

I've been going through my journals that I've kept through the years, and even I am amazed at how much I've changed! I didn't remember being so angry and suicidal at times. I mean I remember running away and getting restrained, and that I tried taking my

life more than once when I was in my early teens. But going through and reading my entries, I was just so angry at everyone; more so at myself, though. I didn't want to live. I didn't want to trust anyone. I just wasn't happy at all.

It's been helpful going through them. My journals give me a chance to go back and look things over and realize how many people I am so thankful for, who stepped up to plate and took on the challenge of trying to change things around for me. So many people gave me a chance to work through things and



▲ Kristine while at the Youth Ranch

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