

Project Patch Wish List

For those who prefer to give toward a specific project, the following list contains items which are needed yet are not part of the operating budget. Please make sure to note on your gift if you would like it designated for a Wish List item. In the event that the item has already been purchased, we will contact you for further instructions.

Ranch:

(\$30 month, \$360 year) Food for classroom animals

(\$5-\$25 each) Biographies for library

(\$350) An iPad to record PE scores

(\$189) USB computer microscope

(\$300) Saltwater aquarium setup

(\$500) Lego Technic classroom set

(\$80 each, \$400 total) 5 Sleeping bags

(\$170) New volleyball net

(\$50 for a 12 pack) New jerseys, including larger sizes - 10 per color

(\$150 each, \$300 total) 2 Guitars

(\$1,900) 20 New or used office chairs

Goldendale Family Experience and Retreat Center:

(\$2,000) Ice maker

(\$2,000) Electric wire feed welder

(\$1,500) Plasma cutter

If you are mailing a check for a specific item, please mark "Wish List" and the item you'd like to purchase on your check. You can also call our office at 360-690-8495 to make your donation via credit card as well as online at [www.projectpatch.org/supportpatch](http://www.projectpatch.org/supportpatch).

Cares and Prayers

Please pray for Development and Fundraising!

Piecing It Together

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

-(Romans 12:2, NIV)

This issue of PATCHworks is focused on education and the importance of helping teens and families. Education is a major part of all that we do.

**Our Youth Ranch** not only has an AdvancED accredited school that teaches traditional subjects, but our therapist team teaches about emotions, interpersonal skills and conflict management. Most importantly, our chaplain teaches that God created us with a purpose and loves and redeems us.

**Our Family Experience** teaches and helps families with skills to help them pull together. Our curriculum includes a cutting edge method that incorporates experiential learning to increase the impact of what we teach.

**Our seminars** teach on topics that keep parents up at night including online pornography, video games, and social media. We teach people to build helpful relationships with teens and empower grandparents to make a greater influence on their grandchildren.

None of this would be possible if we did not believe in the power of God to transform lives and renew minds.

We are living in an amazing time in which there are more resources for helping us gain insight and learn wisdom. God is at work not only with pastors and evangelists but is blessing and increasing the eternal impact of parents, grandparents, teachers, therapists, physicians and mentors.

Thanks for taking time to read this issue and I hope you have gained a new perspective on the importance of reaching this generation with the good news of transformation.

*Project Patch has been partnering with parents since 1984 to help teens with behavior problems. Parents trust our licensed and accredited Youth Ranch in the mountains of Idaho as a therapeutic place for their teen to gain the insight, skills and motivation to live a positive life.*



Attention friends of Project Patch! We need your email address! Please send it to [info@projectpatch.org](mailto:info@projectpatch.org).



Contact Us:

[www.projectpatch.org](http://www.projectpatch.org)  
2404 E Mill Plain Blvd #A  
Vancouver, WA 98661  
360-690-8495



Jasmine’s Story

“I felt I would die before I was even the age to graduate high school, so I did not feel it was important.” With that thought Jasmine dropped out of high school. She felt it was a waste of time. “My plan was a slow suicide with drugs and if it did not work fast enough I would just overdose.” If it was not for being placed at Patch she said **“To be honest I think I would probably be a homeless druggie somewhere.”**

A significant portion of the Youth Ranch program is our fully accredited education program. When clients are placed they go through a series of initial placement tests to assess their educational strengths and weaknesses. When Jasmine was placed she confessed that “I felt stupid, and embarrassed. I felt it was a waste of my time because I would not be going back to school after Patch anyway.” In fact staff state that Jasmine “threw” her math placement test. They explained that when they examined her math skills, her most dreaded subject, it revealed many holes in her learning caused by lack of attendance, poor attitude, and being cast off by former teachers.

One of her teachers describes the shift that happened in Jasmine after several months of intensive hole-filling. Jasmine started to gain confidence, and her eyes started to sparkle. One day she explained, **“When I came here I was really down on myself, now I believe I can learn and will go on to college.”**

Jasmine explains the change in herself: “I’m not exactly sure when it was but I think a big point was when I finished Algebra One. I never thought I would finish that class because I wasn’t smart enough. I shifted from doing school slowly and feeling stupid and pointless about it to trying to get as much done as I possibly could in my time at Patch. When I heard that I could possibly be a senior when I leave, I started to consider the idea of going back to school; that maybe I wouldn’t be so bad after all, just having one year left and then I would be done. I began feeling more positive that maybe I could graduate high school which led to the thought of a future and maybe a career; maybe my life could have purpose.”

Jasmine says she has learned a lot about her life at Patch **“I can’t control other people’s lives or what’s happening but I CAN control mine and choose what I do with my life.** I have also learned that death isn’t the only way to happiness and there is a lot more to life than drugs and pain. I’ve learned to cope with my pain and that I will have troubles in the future but I am prepared for them and will deal with them as they come. I’ve learned that I am important to people and it doesn’t have to be me against the world. There are people who love and care about me and will be there for me, helping and supporting me. Moreover, the most important thing I’ve learned, I think, is just learning that I have value and my life is what I make it to be.”

Jasmine plans to take the skills that she has acquired and attend college in the future— possibly with a focus as a neonatal nurse practitioner or child development. **Our success stories are made possible by our generous supporters! Thank you for helping us to accomplish our mission.**

*The curriculum and learning philosophy at the Youth Ranch can be read here: [Projectpatch.org/education](http://Projectpatch.org/education).*

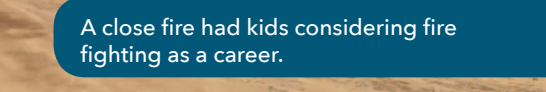
The kids at the Ranch recently went on a career exploration field trip.



We explored careers in mechanics.



A close fire had kids considering fire fighting as a career.



The kids also got to go fishing!





We are grateful to be working with you to accomplish our mission.

### Two Special Ways to Help Our Kids:

Are you interested in volunteering?

Contact Tara Brooks at [info@projectpatch.org](mailto:info@projectpatch.org)

Join our Prayer Warrior Team!

Go to [projectpatch.org/prayer](http://projectpatch.org/prayer)

Have you seen our Facebook Page?

Like us! [facebook.com/projectpatch](https://facebook.com/projectpatch)

Your donations make a big difference in the lives of troubled teens and their families!

To donate go to [projectpatch.org/donate](http://projectpatch.org/donate)  
Thank you!

## Project Patch Graduate Doing Well in College and Life

The staff here at Project Patch work hard to help troubled teens, but we believe that it's the kids who are the real heroes. Kristina Miller recently wrote to Project Patch to tell us about her life's journey and her educational success. Here's what she had to say:

"I was a desperate 15-year-old when I entered Patch. Birth parent issues and adoptive parents who experienced a difficult divorce and sexual abuse were some of the things that had already happened in my short life, leaving me with bitterness and hatred toward others and for life in general. I was acting out at home and hurting myself and others as a way to keep people away from me. I didn't want to live anymore.

The first six months at Project Patch were spent trying to do and say what I thought everyone wanted me to do so that I could leave and end my life. When that didn't work, I spent the next four months lashing out at staff, running away and harming myself. **The staff never lost their patience with me. Instead they were loving and supportive and even willing to listen to the words that I wasn't saying out loud.** This was a completely different experience for me because there were never adults in my life that treated me that way before.

Eventually I began opening up and started dealing with all the painful memories from my past, which started my healing. I also learned strategies to help me keep from being used again. But the best part is that I became excited about life! I graduated from the program at 17, and even now I wish I could go back for a little while because they were the best years of my life. I was given learning tools and communication skills that have helped me on my life's journey, which has been crazy at times.

I went on to graduate high school with high honors, which is something that wouldn't have been possible without the help of my teachers and the staff at Patch. **Today I am successful in college and going for my bachelor's degree in criminal justice.** I intend to become a police officer. It is my goal to meet people where they are and offer those same tools and encouragement to help themselves and their families to a better life. I know that the skills I was taught while at Project Patch will make me a better police officer, able to serve my community and those who really need help.

The difference between life and death and success and failure in my life was that the staff at Project Patch saw in me what no one else did. They took a chance on me and they believed in me, and they never gave up teaching me how to handle the world and the cruelties handed down to me through others failures and problems.



I will forever be indebted to Project Patch and their amazing staff. Thank you so much for all the hard work you put in for young people like me, and for believing in our futures, and for praying for us. You are literally saving us, one kid at a time."

*Since 1984 Project PATCH has worked to help restore teens and change their lives. We are grateful to be working with you to accomplish our mission: Building thriving families, restoring hope to teens, and empowering supportive communities.*



## Today's Family Experience

**"Where did you get that idea?"** I've learned not to be surprised by some of the crazy harebrained ideas that teens at our youth ranch have. The weirdest ideas have to do with ways not to get pregnant or to hide drug use from parents. The truth is their friends were wrong and they believed wrong information.

It would be funny except we adults also have learned and believe some incorrect things. Sure, ours may be a bit more logical but these beliefs still result in harm to ourselves and our relationships.

For example, many adults believe the most important way to protect their kids from pornography is to block their access to the Internet. The focus is on either eliminating

technology or buying the right device which will prevent access. While it is important to know and limit your kids access to online pornography, two other things are much more important.

1. Your example – how you relate to appropriate and inappropriate expressions of sexuality and the role of internet, computer and mobile devices in your life.
2. Your relationship – whether you can talk about difficult things, tell the truth, trust, affirm, stick to boundaries, share values, avoid shame and demonstrate grace.

You as a parent, grandparent or mentor can make an eternal impact on a kids life and help protect them from their ignorant friends. We want to not only encourage you but empower you with the knowledge and skills to help the kids in your influence.

**Today's Family Experience helps you by providing short articles, podcasts, videos and seminars.** Learn more at [today.thefamilyexperience.org](http://today.thefamilyexperience.org).



## The Family Experience: A Place of Learning

**"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."**

*-Benjamin Franklin*

During a Family Experience weekend, everyone in the family is involved in the learning process. Kevin, a father, said this about his favorite part of the Family Experience.

"My favorite? Probably the ropes course and the experiential activities. We gained so many insights from those activities AND it was so fun. Those activities really engaged my daughters in this family learning process."

**"Teaching is more than imparting knowledge, it is inspiring change. Learning is more than absorbing facts, it is acquiring understanding"**

*-William Arthur Ward*

One of the foundations that families walk away with at the end of their Family Experience is titled "Seek to Understand." Kevin also said this in regard to learning about his and his daughter's assumptions about his wife's personality:

"I got a much better understanding of why my wife is so stressed. It was fascinating and enlightening to see how that showed up in her personality profile. We always had her pegged as an Otter (personality type) and had failed to see the Beaver side of her."

**"Being a mother is learning about strengths you didn't know you had... and dealing with fears you didn't know existed."**

*-Linda Wooten*

The Family Experience is here to empower families in their strengths and encourage them by providing tools to support one another through the difficulties life may present. Book your opportunity to learn and grow as a family today. For more information, go to [thefamilyexperience.org](http://thefamilyexperience.org).



## Calendar of Events

Oct. 8-17	Palmer Alaska Parenting Seminars	Dec. 3-6	Family Experience
Oct. 22	Project Patch Board Meeting	Apr. 7-10	Family Experience
Nov. 5-8	Family Experience Girls Alumni	May 26-29	Family Experience
Nov. 19-22	Family Experience		