



Jordan's Story

Jordan's mom called Project Patch in tears. She loved her son, yet life with him had become unbearably stressful. Jordan and his mom couldn't seem to figure out how to talk to each other. He was constantly in trouble whether it was at home or in school for his lying, stealing, and disrespectful attitude. The only emotion Jordan felt before Project Patch was either anger or sadness. Jordan's mom had tried every resource she could think of in her community and was losing hope.

Jordan expected Project Patch Youth Ranch to be "horrible" and he didn't want to leave his family. He was determined to dislike all of the staff. Dorm staff never knew which Jordan they would get when the day started. There were days when he would wake up and they could hold a conversation with him and he could be engaging and be reasonable. On other days it seemed that he was in his own world with his own logic for how

things should be. Jordan remembers constantly getting in trouble in the beginning. He tried to do the same behaviors that he did at home. He lied, stole things, and disrespected those around him. Even though he was acting out and determined not to like the staff or the program Jordan discovered that he actually liked many of the staff and that they were nice. The program was way better than he thought it would be and he ended up having fun. The staff say despite his pushing back they remained consistent with Jordan and discovered that thinking outside the box and getting creative with their rewards and consequences helped Jordan better manage his behavior, anger and sadness.

Jordan isn't sure when it happened but his main emotion at Project Patch changed to happiness. Jordan worked hard to improve his relationship with his family. He noticed things were different during his first home leave. He was able to communicate and was able to express when he felt left out. It surprised him that even his younger brother was listening to his concerns.

It has been nearly a year since Jordan reluctantly entered Project Patch. Jordan's mom says he's a completely different kid. He still struggles but now he's a pleasure to be around and he's a blessing rather than a stress to her. During his last home leave a friend of the family commented that Jordan was the most respectful out of all the kids that were around at that time. Project Patch staff say that it is a night and day difference in Jordan. Now when things are tough he works through it. He's able to identify when he is sad and talk when he is struggling and not lose focus.

Jordan is excited about going home to his family and back to school. He also looks forward to going to college where he wants to play football. His goal is to provide for a family one day and says that the skills that he's learned at Project Patch will help him be a better father. He now has something more than anger and sadness to pass on to others.

Life Long Value of Project Patch

Julie, who now is a 43 year old education professional and a Mom of 3 boys, says she is a product of the very beginning of Project Patch. Although we do things a bit different now, it's encouraging to see the life-long value of our program.

"When Project Patch was in it's infancy over thirty years ago, Tom started counseling with my family. I was a good kid who needed nurture and guidance, but my home environment was chaotic and violent.

When it became apparent that it was no longer safe for me to live at home, Tom helped me to go to a boarding school, because Patch didn't have that capability at the time. For the first time a long time, I felt safe, and I had hope.

My home visits didn't go well with my parents, so arrangements were made for me to stay with another family during the summers. As long as I was away from home I knew there was a chance for me, and it became increasingly important to me to do well in school.

Unfortunately I didn't always make good choices. One time during the summer I ended up in downtown Portland, and almost immediately was approached by pimps. I managed to get away and call Tom who helped me to find a place to stay until school started again. I always get teary eyed when I think of what a difference he made. Now the kids at Project Patch get to stay at dorms.

Project Patch made it possible for me to discover my self-worth and potential, and it gave me hope for my future. I am now a successful 2nd grade teacher with three boys of my own, and I am forever grateful."

This ministry is in the business of restoring hope and purpose to the lives of at risk teens. It is through the compassion and generosity of our supporters that we are able to help kids change their course to become healthy adults. If you would like help, please visit our webpage at www.projectpatch.org.

Tools of the Trade: Parenting Tip

How to Make Your Child FEEL Loved

by Paul Elmore

It's not enough to tell your children that you love them. They need to FEEL loved. They need to experience being loved. They need to know deep down, inherently, that they are worth something. They need to know that they are wanted.

How Do You Do That?

Steve Donaldson, a counselor here in Portland puts it this way:

"The love, acceptance, and approval a child needs, is rarely communicated verbally. The child develops a sense of himself by how he is treated by his parents."

The language of children is a language of facial expression, eye contact, focused attention, voice tone, and touch to name a few.

The child's sense of self (who he is) is formed by the reflection he sees in his parent's eyes.

Do the parent's eyes tell the child that he is good and desirable or do they communicate to him that he is a burden or only acceptable if he performs in a certain way?

Do the facial expression and voice tone communicate that he is loved because he exists as a special and separate being, or do they communicate that his opinion, and preferences are only valued to the extent that they conform with and affirm the parent or the family system?"

Now What?

When talking with your child, get down on his or her level. Get eye to eye. Don't be distracted by all the other daily things. Take 20 seconds, actually listen to your kid, let your face show that you are listening, and see what happens.

- See more at on Paul's website <http://www.paulelmore.com/parenting/how-to-make-your-child-feel-loved/#sthash.5A5EHIFy.dpuf>

Parenting in a Hostile World



"The day's are long but the years are short" – Gretchen Rubin

Parenting is one of the most demanding things I've ever done. Just when I think I have things figured out two things happen. My daughters enter a new stage of life as they get older; and a new threat is invented.

It's easy to get overwhelmed by not only the magnitude of responsibility we have as parents but also by all the threats that come against our kids and families.

It is really easy to become afraid, intimidated and unproductive as parents if we don't keep our focus. As parents we are called to parent in a real world and that requires us to continually learn new things and improve our relationship with our kids.

Today's Family Experience Seminars were designed specifically to help church and community groups focus on key parenting skills needed to raise kids in a hostile world.

The seminars provide not only encouragement but also principles and skills to face challenges like internet pornography, addictive video games, social media and other risks. For all these issues, parents often look for an easy solution but the reality is that the answer is not going to be found in an electronic device, it's found in a strong parent and child relationship. This relationship requires strong communication skills and trust.

Please consider hosting a seminar in your church, school or community group. If you live in the Portland area would you consider hosting a 60-90 minutes or series of meetings? We also create custom weekends for out of town hosts.

A pastor recently brought Chuck to their community in the Sacramento area and wrote, "Parents, grandparents and anyone who works with children should attend this excellent seminar. It will be time well-spent, and families, the church and the community will be benefited."

For more information contact Linda Hill at

360-690-8495 or email lhill@projectpatch.org
www.projectpatch.org/seminars.



Upcoming Seminar Dates and Locations

April 25

Parenting Seminar at Oasis SDA Church
Vancouver, WA

May 1-3

CEO Chuck Hagele at
NW ASI Conference, Spokane, WA

June 3

Parenting Seminar for Adventist
Hospital Employees, Portland, OR

July 30-31

Life Ready Kids
Walla Walla Camp Meeting Parenting Seminars

Be sure to check our "Events Calendar" online at www.projectpatch.org/about_us/patch-calender for current information on upcoming seminars and other events.

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.



Kevin and Carol first learned about The Family Experience while attending Project Patch's Parenting Seminar at their local church. They knew right away that it would help strengthen their family. They called Project Patch and were in the planning stages when a video contest was announced to win a Family Experience came up. So they got together with their daughters and created a video for the contest. ([LINK - https://vimeo.com/114060027](https://vimeo.com/114060027)) *Family Weekend*

Carol was thrilled when they won. Her family was, "Entering the teen years, lots of sibling rivalry issues, trouble communicating, a lack of teamwork, and finding it difficult to have fun together." She hoped, "That sibling rivalry would be turned into teamwork, that the girls would know we are on their side, and to go deeper as a family." They signed up for the next Family Experience weekend excited for an intentional fun time with their family.

Kevin, reflecting on the weekend said: "This experience was very affirming that we were on the right track with some of the things we were already doing. But it also helped fill in some of the cracks we saw forming in our relationships. I think this helps us know how to support each other better as we've learned more about our strengths and weaknesses." Their daughters said: "It has helped us in showing us new ways to solve problems" and, "We don't argue as much!"

Everyone in the family continues to incorporate the foundational lessons they learned at the Family Experience. Carol says: "We talk about our values and how to incorporate them into our daily lives. Use of the personality profiles comes up the most; they help us name what's going on, i.e.: Mom's having a Beaver personality style mo-

ment; Rachel needs some Otter time with her friends. Morgan needs things calm and quite for a while. Daddy spent all day in 'Beaver land' (work) and needs to just hang out..." Rachel shares, "That if we help Beaver mom clean, her fun mom comes out!" Kevin says, "It's made us more tolerant of each other's quirks and helped us to see we have an incredible bond that's worth fighting for." Morgan states, "I learned from a lesson my mom got about the glasses of good intention, that even if our family is mad at each other, we can forget it and have fun."

Each of them has a hard time picking just one favorite part of the weekend. In the end they all agree with dad. Kevin said: "Ooooh, tough question because we enjoyed so much of the weekend, probably the ropes course and the experiential activities. We gained so much insight from those activities AND it was so fun. Those actives really engaged my daughters in the learning process."

Kevin wants other parents to know: "Expect to be challenged in a good way and embrace those 'ah-ha' moments. The ENTIRE staff is rooting for the success of your family, not just the coaches and facilitators." Rachel thinks that other kids should know, "That is was fun, the food was good and you can get along better with your siblings."

Carol sums up their experience and what their family walked away with stating: "Our family is so much closer, so much more thoughtful about why we each do what we do. The girls know we are on their team and we speak love to each other in ways we couldn't before. You can't put a price on that!"

www.TheFamilyExperience.org



Volunteer Spotlight:

Linda Hill, Hospitality Director of the Family Experience says "Gene & Janet Domke have been a tremendous help to Project Patch as volunteers! They have continued every year helping some way with Project Patch!! The Domke's are great examples of how to be a Champion.

1. They helped with painting the dining room at the Family Experience
2. They helped with the grounds
3. They helped make 400 jars of pear jam
4. They helped many hours on the 30th year event

Janet Domke says the reason they help is because they were asked. They are happy to be able to contribute to the mission of Project Patch/The Family Experience.

Would you like to be a Champion? Contact us! Tara Brooks, Development at 360-690-8495 x7020, or Tbrooks@projectpatch.org.



Wish list Piecing It Together

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

Youth Ranch

20 Padded Chairs	\$1900
8 Orchard Fruit Trees	\$320
Hay Baler Feeder Conversion (Alfalfa to Hay)	\$500
Gardening and Landscaping Tools	
Gravel	\$3500
(We are grateful for the recent gift of 15 loads to the Family Experience)	

Family Center

Flowers for Planters	\$600
Used Green House	\$2000
4 Light Weight Folding Tables	\$200
4 Boxwood Bushes	\$200

Vancouver Office

Kitchen Floor Repair	Depends on Bid
Table Cloth for Boardroom Table	\$50
Long Table	\$190
72" Cabinet for Storage	\$350

You can sign up for an e-mail version of our newsletter by going to www.projectpatch.org/donate and creating a user account. Click on "Email Preference" and you can select how to receive your newsletter. Thanks!



Truth is stranger than fiction. Not only stranger, it's often much more painful and hard to believe especially when it's a story about a child who was helpless to change or understand her circumstances.

Sheryl didn't show much emotion when she came to our Youth Ranch. Her story involved the death of close family members and a string of failed attempts at feeling better. She had tried everything from drugs to boys and now had given up.

It's chaotic to work with a teen that is doing a bunch of negative things. However, the real hard work is getting a teen like Sheryl to care again enough to at least try living.

This sort of work takes time and focus. It requires staff to remain consistent and to give even though the teen is giving little back in return. It requires commitment and most of all, a lot of prayer.

Not all kids respond, but Sheryl has. It happened slowly and she was careful to try to hide it but if you watched closely you could see a faint smile and a spark in her eye. Life didn't become easier as she returned to caring. It actually became

harder because the pain and loss returned too. However, this time, she wasn't trying to figure it out on her own.

This issue of our newsletter shares stories of teens and families that have been impacted by people who care. Early on, the work was almost exclusively done by Tom Sanford and a devoted group of people who opened up their homes. Now, the work is done by a team of people who bring different skills and training but still have the same heart for helping kids and families.

Thanks for being part of the team that makes it possible to help so many kids and families. I hope you are not only encouraged by this issue but that you become further involved in the ministry of Project Patch, building thriving families, restoring hope to teens and empowering supportive communities.

Cares and Prayers

"I am always delighted to receive e-mails from Project Patch. Please send me your newsletters. They will give me more ideas of ways to pray! You're ministry is in my prayers frequently." — KV

"Thank you for your prayers for my granddaughter who has cancer. God Bless your ministry for our Precious Jesus." — JP

"We have been on your mailing list for quite some time & are appreciative of the much needed ministry you are providing for troubled youth.

It requires a committed staff to carry on ceaselessly, meeting the challenges day by day, but brings rewarding results with your faithfulness & God's power to change lives."

In His service,
R&SC



Contact us at info@projectpatch.org
or 360-690-8495