

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:

(\$350) An iPad to record PE scores

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

(\$189) USB computer microscope

(\$500) Lego Technic classroom set

(\$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

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

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

Goldendale Family Experience and Retreat Center:

(\$2,000) Electric wire feed welder

(\$400) Small lawnmower

(\$1,500) Grass/leaf bagger for riding lawnmower

4X4 Pickup

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. To make your donation via credit card, you can call our office at 360-690-8495 or give online at www.projectpatch.org/supportpatch.

Contact Us:

www.projectpatch.org

2404 E Mill Plain Blvd #A
Vancouver, WA 98661

360-690-8495

Piecing It Together

Spring is a season of miracles. Flowers come up where we planted ugly bulbs. Trees which appeared dead now are covered in buds. I've come to the point that while I appreciate spring, I'm not surprised by it. I'm used to the miracles because they come every year.

Project Patch is starting our 32nd year of ministry! I was recently reading through some old documents and was struck by the level of ***surprise, enthusiasm, and delight*** found in them as our small team experienced for the first time the same miracles that we experience today. The stories were about reluctant parents agreeing to help their kids, kids coming to the ranch and experiencing healing, and generous donors stepping forward to provide support. Several stories were about staff deciding to leave their homes and come to Idaho to work. There were stories of kids trying to run away and being found. **The best stories were of kids being transformed, anger turning to forgiveness, and kids learning to love.**

One of the problems with a long history of miracles is that they can become "normal" and taken for granted. It isn't that we don't see God at work daily at Patch, it's just that –because we aren't surprised– we don't always celebrate and stop to thank God.

I recently was reminded of a viewpoint taught by Dave Ramsey of Financial Peace University. He shares that their success in helping people results from the "Momentum Theorem." He used a math equation to describe it: **"Focused Intensity over Time multiplied by God equals Unstoppable Momentum."**

Project Patch would not exist or be effective if it weren't for God's power and miracles. As an organization we work very hard. It's the kind of work that leaves our team physically and mentally tired. It isn't the kind of work that at the end of the day you can look back on and see a pile of accomplishments. It's the kind of work that takes faith and trust.

We've had a focused intensity in all our years of helping kids rediscover their purpose and future in God. **We help kids stop destroying their future and get back on course.** We've discovered that helping families thrive results in kids being helped without ever stepping foot onto our Youth Ranch. Also, because of the parenting seminars I give all over the country, our website, blogs and use of social media, our message is spreading around the world via the internet. We are inspiring and equipping parents and mentors to step into the high calling God has for them to help kids become great adults

All this work is made possible because God is at work, taking our focus and time and using it to transform lives. **That is something I never want any of us to take for granted, not notice, not to praise God for.**

Many of you have been getting this newsletter since it was printed in black and white. Some of you may be getting this as your first newsletter. **I invite you to join me in a renewed focus on appreciating the power of God and His faithfulness shown in the miracles that make these stories possible.** I also invite you to take a few minutes to share with those who have fear about this generation of teens that God is active and calling a group of people to work really hard, give all we have, and have a front row seat as He works wonders beyond anything we've seen before.



Bekah's Miracle

Bekah was hurting and she expressed it with anger, "I showed anger towards my family and indifference toward the things going on around me. I didn't care about my family or myself."

Her mother Monique felt unappreciated, frustrated, and angry. She felt she had done her best to raise and care for Bekah, some of that time as a single mother. "It hurt and was frustrating that she just didn't care." Monique explained.

Bekah and Monique agree that the unstable family relationships and anger were the reasons for Bekah's placement. Monique said, "We all needed it. We needed a rest. She couldn't live at home. It was too volatile. We all needed a chance where we could step away from each other but still be connected. We needed somewhere Bekah could be cared about and where they wanted to see the whole family get better. The space gave us the room to work on things with Bekah. I also think it saved my marriage."

When Bekah found out that she would be attending Project Patch's program she was in juvenile detention for fights with her family. "I was angry that I wasn't going to be able to see my friends but I was happy that I wasn't coming back home." she stated. "Patch was tough at first. I was resistant to accept that I would be here for a year. But when I finally allowed myself to accept the program for what it is, I gained so much more than I initially thought I had lost."

Monique says that they saw the little shifts in every interaction they had with Bekah. There was a building of a foundation. Then when they were three-fourths of the way through her year they saw Bekah begin to put all of the foundation into play and build upon it. Bekah's step-father and mother also began their own therapy and Monique says that was one of the keys to the success that they are seeing.

"My relationships are now much better than before," says Bekah as she describes the changes in the family. "My mom and I can now hang out and not argue. I am able to be honest with her about my feelings and thoughts and no longer feel judgement. I show respect to my parents and appreciate the role my stepdad played in my life."

Monique too has seen the changes in all the relationships. She says "Bekah listens more and takes my thoughts into consideration. I am learning to let go of certain things and how to guide her rather than be bossy about it. Her relationship with her step-father has started to grow in trust. There is now an appreciation there. And her younger brother who used to be nervous around her and sad because of the fights that he saw happening... their relationship is now great."

Bekah plans on graduating from high school next year and to go to college majoring in social work and minoring in child or family studies and/or culinary. She plans to volunteer with her younger brother's Scout pack and at the Boys and Girls Club as well as getting back into choir.

All the family members have found healing through this process and are looking forward to seeing the trust that has started to be rebuilt grow.'

To learn more about Bekah's story check out the video on our website: www.projectpatch.org/Bekah



Attention, friends of Project Patch! We need your email address! Please send it to info@projectpatch.org.



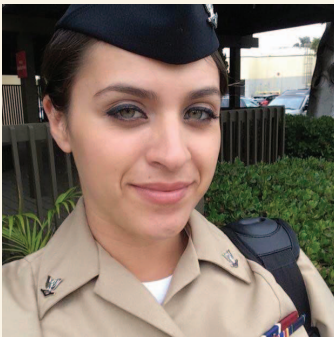
Project Patch has been partnering with parents since 1984 to help teens with behavior problems. Parents trust our licensed and accredited Youth Ranch in the mountains of Idaho as a therapeutic place for their teen to gain the insight, skills, and motivation to live a positive life.



Project Patch Graduate Skye Patino: Getting Back to My Core

“Basically I was making the worst choices possible. I was hurt and angry from childhood trauma. I just wanted to stop feeling all that pain.” Patchworks, Fall 2006

Skye Patino, attended Project Patch from December 2005-January 2006. She was speaking by invitation at a fundraising event when she made that statement. Ten years later, she talked with us about her experience and the miraculous way Patch changed her life.



My childhood was very chaotic. I experienced sexual abuse, trauma, and an unstable family life. When I turned 13 and hit adolescence, everything started coming out. I started experimenting with marijuana, then about a year later, I started drinking. At age 15 I was sexually active and putting myself in dangerous situations. I felt disconnected from my family, and my self-esteem was very low.

I ran away at 15 and wound up on the streets of Hollywood. It was a very dangerous situation. I could have been killed or lost forever! But my Mom and Dad really worried about me and didn’t want to lose me, so they searched until they found me. The trouble was, I didn’t want to stop my bad behavior, even though I knew it wasn’t good for me.

I was close to my Grandma, who took me on a trip to Joshua Tree when I got back home. She helped me to see that I wasn’t happy with my life, and it was time for a change. She said “I know who you really are and this isn’t you. You aren’t going to be happy until you live differently.” It made sense to me, and I agreed to try Project Patch. But it was a shock to arrive in winter; I had never seen snow before! At first I was pretty sure that Patch would be a waste of time. That is until after I finished level 1. Then I began to see that there was a chance for me to change and be happy.

Jim Smith was my counselor, and he was a pivotal part of my recovery. Colleen and Stephanie were there too, and they helped me a lot. The time in nature, especially hiking in the Saw Tooth Mountains, really made an impact. It was beautiful. For the first time in my life I felt free and at peace.

After I graduated from Patch, I hit some rough spots. It took about three years for me to really appreciate everything I learned there. Eventually, I joined the Navy and served 5 years. During that time I was deployed and promoted to higher ranks. Now I am proud to be a culinary professional in L.A. working in the family business. I am also going to school to get my Bachelor’s degree in sociology and criminal justice. I want to be a detective someday.



Thank you Project Patch for changing my life and helping me get back to who I am to my core, and teaching me the skills I needed to grow into a balanced happy woman. I wouldn’t be the same without you. I will be forever grateful. Love, Skye.

Project Patch - Building thriving families, restoring hope to teens, empowering supportive communities since 1984.

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

**To donate go to projectpatch.org/donate
Thank you!**

Two Special Ways to Help Our Kids:

Are you interested in volunteering?
Contact Tara Brooks at info@projectpatch.org

Join our Prayer Warrior Team!
Go to projectpatch.org/prayer

Have you seen our Facebook Page?
Like us!
facebook.com/projectpatch

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



**Today’s Family Experience
God is still in the business of miracles.**

We live in a world in which kids have easy access to pornography. They may not have access at their homes, yet 90% of kids will see it before they reach 16. A recent study conducted by SPCC ChildLine found that one out of every ten 12- to 13-year-olds they surveyed reported to being addicted to pornography.

The same survey showed that 20% of kids reported viewing porn as a part of everyday life and normal behavior.

Many people believe kids are just going through a curious phase and aren’t concerned with the impact of their viewing porn. What the research tells us is that kids are not only viewing pornography, but they are viewing different types of pornography which may include same gender sex, group sex, bondage, bestiality, rape/sexual violence, and child pornography. Pornography has been found to result in tastes becoming increasingly extreme or deviant.

Kids are reporting that pornography is leading to depression, body image issues, and pressure to engage in sexual acts they don’t feel ready for. Studies with young adults have shown that pornography use has negative effects on their sex life once they are married. It robs them of intimacy.

I don’t share this information to scare, depress, or shame you. I also don’t share it to make you look for a property in the remote parts of the world without internet (I don’t think there are any left).

I share this information because you need to know that despite the threat of pornography, God is greater. At a time in which there is paralyzing fear, complacency, and doubt, we have proof that God is calling parents to stand as an antidote to the curse of pornography.

Project Patch has been leading seminars about online threats of pornography, video games, and social media since 2011. Our seminars teach parents the power of using communication, modeling, sharing values, and using teachable moments from media to help their kids. The focus is on raising kids who participate in protecting their own purity. Parents focus on building partnerships rather than creating a false sense of comfort from sheltering their kids.

We also focus on the power of God who is still in the business of miracles. We explore Romans 12:2 and how God wants to transform our thoughts from the pattern of this world which focuses on momentary pleasure and pain avoidance. We explore how perfect love drives out fear. We share how God brings relief to our anxiety and negative thoughts through learning how to think according to the pattern of Philippians 4:8.

The work we do to protect kids online is flourishing because of the Internet. **Since launching our blog (todaysfamilyexperience.com) we’ve had nearly 18,000 views.** Our podcast has been downloaded over 2,300 times. Even though we are small, God is working miracles to get our testimony spread around the world.

Will you join us in getting the word out that even though the threat of pornography is strong and real, the power of God is greater? You can help by subscribing to updates from our blog and podcast **todaysfamilyexperience.com**. You can also learn more about hosting a seminar in your church or community by going to www.projectpatch.org/seminars.



Calendar of Events

Mar. 4-7 **Chuck at Annual Post Graduate Convention, Loma Linda University**
Mar. 12 **Parenting Seminar: Help! Video Games are Invading My Home!**
NW Ministry Convention, Overlake Church
Mar. 15 **Shine the Light Event: Ministry Leaders Conference. Hosted by Project Patch at The Family Experience, Goldendale, Washington**

Mar. 17-20 **Boys Alumni Weekend**
The Family Experience, Goldendale, Washington
Mar. 31-Apr. 3 **Girls Alumni Weekend**
The Family Experience, Goldendale, Washington
Apr. 21-24 **Chuck at ASI**
May 12-13 **Project Patch Board Meeting**
Garden Valley, Idaho