

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.

Youth Program - Idaho:

3 Push Lawnmowers - \$230 each

5 Vacuums - \$100 each

Fish Pond Restocking - \$300

4 Garden Hoses - \$50 each

4 Rafting Life Jackets - \$100 each

3 Sprinklers - \$30 Each

4 Fly Rods with Reals - \$150 each

Fly Fishing Tackle - \$200

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

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Bringing It Together

By Chuck Hagele, Executive Director

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." (Matthew 24:14 NIV)

People ask me whether this is the most challenging time to be a teen or a parent. Being a teen or a parent has never been easy; however, I do agree that we are living in a tough time in which many teens and parents lack support. Instability and distrust cause a higher level of complexity and vulnerability.

Yet, I'm not afraid, partially because of the text above. First, I define a kingdom as a place where a king has total power and authority. Second, when God has full power and authority, it makes for a fantastic story of living well, personal freedom and growth.

Our testimony as a ministry is that even when things seem really rough and uncertain, we can count on God being greater. Project Patch began 35 years ago, not based on our ability to change a child's life but realizing that God called us to work with him in His great work.

I meet many parents who are worried about screens, drugs, negative friends, and a whole host of other real and present dangers. There are many reasons to be concerned and vigilant, yet we can't lose sight that God is still able to work his power and authority in these things.

As a ministry, we have a front row seat to watch kids find freedom and see family relationships be restored.

I recently was given a chance to travel to Australia to share our message. During the 14-day trip, I shared 17 messages of hope and taught skills to help teens and families. It was a chance to share Project Patch's testimony of God's kingdom.

During this trip, we were able to professionally record 12 segments of my seminar, "Life Ready Kids: The Battle Over the Off Switch." The project is currently being edited and will be distributed to Christian television networks later this summer as well as sold directly online and on DVD.

This edition of PatchWorks was challenging to write because it is filled with stories of loss. It's easy to become overwhelmed and discouraged. It's okay to hurt and feel sadness, but we can't lose sight of the good news that God is greater than anything else that comes our way.

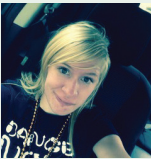
I appreciate your prayers and financial support. Your generous response to the needs of our teens and families provides a foundation that allows us to serve based on need rather than ability to pay for services. You can give online using the enclosed response envelope, by calling 360-690-8495 or online at www.projectpatch.org/donate.



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.



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"Momma, what happens if they don't take me?"

By Anna's mother, Brenda Wells, and her aunt, Robyn Honeycutt

On the evening of June 23, 2018, Anna Elizabeth Wells was enjoying a carefree bike ride at dusk when she was hit from behind by a truck. When first responders arrived, she was unresponsive and put on life-support. Anna was life-flighted from Enid to Oklahoma City where a trauma team declared her injuries to be "unsurvivable."

Now, our memories of Anna shift between her "pre-Patch" and "post-Patch" lives. She was also acutely aware of this divide, frequently exclaiming, "I didn't ever think I'd make it to my 18th birthday; I wouldn't be here without Patch." The impact that Patch had on Anna's life positively affected all of us.

Anna's pre-Patch life had been a daily struggle. Early childhood traumas and losses pierced her. She wanted to die or at least find a way to numb the ever-present pain. Anna struggled, no, Anna fought to figure out how she fit into the world. Inpatient treatment left her even more broken. She was close to either failing or being kicked out of her freshman year of high school. Anna knew she was on a self-destructive path but she had no way of stopping herself, and no one had been able to help her.

On Saturday, January 10, 2015, Anna learned that in three days she'd be going to Patch; this shocking experience of every Patch kid became a part of her story. Anna felt queasy and terrified and hopeful. She had many questions after we told her; having been inpatient twice the summer before, she was worried she would once again have to remove the wires from her bras and the laces from her shoes or be forbidden from shaving her legs. She wanted to know if she would be able to talk to her friends and when she could come home. Anna asked if there was any way she could not go.

Tuesday afternoon we were sitting on the couch at her intake interview, waiting for the Patch staff to decide if she'd be accepted into the program. Anna put her head in my lap and asked a question that gave light to her greatest fear: "Momma, what happens if they don't take me?" Anna wanted someone to help her fight, but I had no way of answering that question. If Anna wasn't accepted into the program at Patch, we had no idea where we would turn next.

Anna did stay, and she fought, sometimes for healing and sometimes to sabotage. She fought for 17 months against completing homework assignments and facing her past at Wilderness, complying with the program while resisting real change. When Anna's fighting threatened an early discharge without graduating, her Patch support team more fervently fought for her and Anna's family more fervently prayed. Supported by the structure and security provided by the Patch staff and treatment program, gradually Anna learned to use her strength and fight for her own emotional healing.

Patch was where Anna found the best version of herself, where she finally was able to face her internal pain and begin to heal. On June 26, 2016, Anna graduated from the Patch program and returned home to a new school and new opportunities. The skills and coping strategies she'd learned now became the tools she used every day when memories, expectations, and self-doubts returned and threatened to overwhelm her again. Anna's post-Patch life had become hopeful and purposeful.

Anna engaged in school, finding that she loved her psychology class; she began to think about her future and what she might do. Anna enjoyed working a part-time job, was in her school play, and was on her Junior class prom committee. She was excited about her high school graduation that would have taken place next May. Anna continued to fight her battles, but the skills she learned at Patch helped her each day. During that time, she longed to return to Patch as a counselor, hoping she might be able to help other kids because she truly understood what it felt like to need help.

After the accident, Anna's body was kept alive for two days as the medical team prepared for her organ donation. On June 25th, one day shy of her 2nd anniversary from Patch graduation, Anna donated her heart, liver, kidneys, and tissues. When the angels swept down to carry her to heaven, her family and friends weren't prepared to let her go, but we've found comfort knowing that for Anna, the good fight is complete.

Yesterday we planted crocus on Anna's grave. After Oklahoma's cold winter, her Spring flowers will emerge. They'll bring color and joy as Anna did to all who knew and loved her. We love you and miss you so much, dear Anna.





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

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



Remembering Faithful Friends

Sam LeFore, Jr.

April 29, 1938 – February 5, 2019

In 1984 Sam LeFore was invited to be the Founding Chairman of the Board for a new ministry called Project Patch. He didn't know at the time that he would spend the next 33 years as a board member, helping grow our ministry from an idea into what we are today.

Sam was good at growing things. Under his care, his orchards and family business flourished. He cared deeply for people and the kids that we served. We loved it when he and Donna showed up with a truckload of Sweet Sam apples.

He loved the Bible and one of his favorite verses was, "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39, NIV)

It was Sam's faith and love that kept him serving the kids of families of Project Patch for so many years. Sam often shared with new board members that he was grateful for the unique opportunity to serve at Patch because he could witness firsthand God's faithfulness, care, and love.



Carlyle Mason

October 21, 1939 – June 26, 2019

In the summer of 2007, Tom Sanford drove Carlyle Mason onto our newly donated property in Goldendale, Washington. There were no roads, buildings, utilities, or even plans. . . only two longtime friends talking about a huge project.

Carlyle had recently been released from a long and difficult hospitalization. It was a miracle that he was alive, and he wasn't sure he would ever have the strength to work again.

Tom hired Carlyle on the spot to design and build the Project Patch Family Center. Carlyle led our small crew and hundreds of volunteers in building our roads, shop, duplex, four cabins, lodge, pump house, bath house and all the other countless little details to make our campus beautiful. He then transitioned to be our Maintenance Director, but his heart was for building and improving.

Carlyle was quiet, hardworking, and faithful in all he did. Carlyle was still working the week he was hospitalized due to lung and heart issues.

Let It Snow . . . Only at the Ski Hill

We had a lot of snow this winter. The teens weren't thrilled because it required hours of shoveling. Yet they were ecstatic when we took them snowboarding. Most of the teens had never had this opportunity before. At first some were terrified while others were overconfident. Brundage Mountain in McCall, Idaho, has a great beginner's program which includes equipment rental, lessons, lift ticket, and even lunch.

The first day was chaotic as teens got used to awkward boots, scary lifts, and the humbling discovery that it was harder than snowboarding in videogames.

Rather than jumping through the air at the terrain park, they spent the day falling on the bunny slope. By the end of the day they were wet, cold and sore. But they wanted to come back.

Thanks to a lot of snow we were able to take several trips, with the last trip in early April. Their snowboarding skills developed with each outing and so did their character.

RF writes, "The snowboarding trip was very fun. It helped me learn how to kind of handle my anger when I kept falling. I also had a lot of positivity from my peers. When I first went snowboarding, I was negative and didn't want to try any big hills. But the second time, I was more open and I had Chuck to help me overcome my fears and show my how to board. The third time I went I used the skills I learned to help out my peer who didn't know how to board. We eventually got better and went to the snowboarding jumps"

GG writes about what it was like being with Patch staff off campus, "they're really just a family who's on your side and wants the best for you."

LH writes, "It was nice to think about life after Patch while doing something I love...I also took a lot of constructive criticism and handled it better."

Now the snow is melted, but the boys and staff remain thankful for the memories and life lessons from the days on the mountain.

Olympian Kristin Armstrong Comes to Patch

Our guest for the March School of Opportunity was three-time gold medalist Kristin Armstrong. Each month we introduce our teens to someone who has chased after a dream and believes in the potential of our teens.

Kristin shared her story of growing up in a military home which gave her the chance to live around the world but required her family to move every couple of years. She shared how she discovered her love of cycling after college when she was looking to lose some weight by riding her bike to work. She began to race bikes and turned professional in her late 20's. She shared the lessons from her first Olympics where she forgot that she was there to race. She then shared the ups and downs of not only winning her first Gold in China in 2008 but going on to win Gold in London and Rio.

She helped the teens learn that Olympians are regular people with their ups and downs. She also challenged the teens to pursue excellence.

The highlight for all School of Opportunity sessions is the question and answer time. Kristin answered questions for over 45 minutes. Answers typically involved her questioning the teen too. One girl was angry because she was convinced her prospects for playing collegiate softball were ruined because of her time at Patch. Kristin challenged her with the idea that all the top athletes have a 1% advantage over the others. She asked, "What if Project Patch gave you the 1% advantage?"

Kristin even brought one of her Gold medals and let the teens try it on and pose with it for pictures. She signed autographs and engaged with our teens.

Teens left inspired, challenged and encouraged by experiencing how much care and interest an Olympian had in them personally.

She wasn't too sure leaving Patch was a good idea. Here she felt secure, loved the staff and was still learning a lot about herself. Yet it was time for her to use her skills in a new environment.

Her life since leaving Patch has been more challenging than she expected. She is attending a Christian boarding school and that dorm and school and friendships still are a challenge. She's using her tools, relies on her kit to help her with her anxiety. She calls nearly every week for a listening ear and for encouragement.

Life still isn't fair for Shelly but that's not stopping her from perusing her goals and growing into an amazing young woman.

