

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:

(3 -\$250) 3 Lawnmowers (Pushing)

(5- \$100) 5 Vacuums

(5 - \$20) 5 Rakes

(\$300) Fish Pond Restocking

(5 - \$180) 5 Round dining room tables

(4 - \$50) 4 Garden Hoses

(\$170) Marita Reciprocating Saw

(\$350) Marita Multi Tool (or Fein Saw) and blades

(4 - \$100) 4 Rafting Life Jackets

(4 -\$10) 4 Locking Carabiners

(\$180) Magic Saw
(Oscillating Saw- Dewalt)

Family Program:

(\$2,00) Ice Maker

(\$50) Paint (Decks)

Vancouver Office:

(2 -\$60) Headsets for Phone System

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/wishlist

Contact Us:

www.projectpatch.org

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Putting It All Together: Regret By Chuck Hagele, Executive Director

Regret is a thief. It causes me to look back and keeps me from moving forward. I'm not the only one.

Jeff had a regret he held for six years. He kept it hidden well, behind a smile and a "don't care" attitude. He drowned out the noise with marijuana and wanted desperately to be popular.

His regret told him he was a bad person, an ungrateful son, and that he deserved to lose his mom to cancer. He was stuck in his bad behavior and was punishing himself by destroying his future.

Care, counseling and hundreds of compassionate moments eventually led him to share his regret with his counselor. That moment was a turning point, yet it didn't end up being a permanent turning point for Jeff. He made a lot of changes. But he remained convinced that there was no hope for him... he was too far behind in school... his reputation was horrible... his family had given up on him.

It's teens like Jeff who keep me and the team up at night. Our regrets? We replay conversations and conflicts, wishing we could have said or done something more to help.

Regrets break us down, make us want to quit and do something easier. We forget that more than 70% of our graduates are thriving, pursuing life and making a positive impact on the people around them.

The teens who do best when they return home also have the most hope for their future. Not a lazy hope filled with easy accomplishments, but instead they have the type of hope that is filled with hard work. They recognize their need for help from others and continue to develop an attitude that keeps them moving even when there are setbacks.

Years ago we clarified our mission to highlight the importance of hope, "... Restoring Hope to Teens..." Teens come to us because they are angry, depressed, anxious, and isolated. They often are struggling with drugs, sex, poor school performance, self-harm and other things that destroy life. These are things that are life-interfering, but we also recognize that they need help to break negative behaviors and thoughts. They need help to discover there is hope... they don't need to be trapped by regret.

Our entire team is responsible to spread hope, whether in school, counseling, working or in worship. One of our newest tools is called The School of Opportunity. Every month, we invite a guest to speak to our teens. Guests share about their life and how they have chased opportunity.

Our first presenter was Tom Sanford. Tom was interviewed about his life and how God had transformed his difficult childhood into a ministry for other kids who are hurting. Paul Spence, vice president of YD Adventures, told his story of being a rebellious teen who loved adventure. Paul shared how he found a career that allowed him to do what he loved and continue to grow as a person. Vandye Forrester, a public speaker, author and professor, gave the teens tips on personal presentation, body language and how to speak on short notice. He also described how two teachers who believed in him changed his life.

The School of Opportunity takes some work to attend. Teens must not have caused any behavior concerns for the prior 24 hours. They also have to prepare. They read the speaker's biography and answer some questions. After each session they complete a personal application assignment.

We are seeing kids start to share some big dreams, so big that they know they need to have positive friendships, good health, emotional stability and wisdom to reach them.

We are thankful for your support of Project Patch and for including us in your prayers and giving.

If you would be interested in presenting at an upcoming session of The School of Opportunity, please reach out to me at chuck@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.



PATCH *works*

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My Journey Back to Patch

I graduated from Project Patch in 2001 but now I'm back... not as a client but as a staff member. I originally went there because I was struggling with depression, substance abuse, poor emotional regulation, disrespect, and bad school grades.

As a kid I had a good relationship with God. I had a loving family ... but felt smothered by religion. I attended church three times a week plus Bible studies. When I was 11 years old my father became very ill and lost his legs to gangrene. This created a lot of family stress and pressure to an already failing marriage. I was afraid and started to become negative. Once I became a teen I pushed my family away, lost my faith in God, and gave up hope for my future. At the age of 14 I attempted to take my own life.

My mother learned about Project Patch from a doctor she worked for who happened to be a donor. She immediately got to work and expedited my application to attend Patch and also sponsored part of my tuition. I was on my way to Idaho within weeks with the doctor and my mother by my side.

At Patch I learned to love nature and gained outdoor skills that shaped my work ethic and gave me the confidence and ability to experience a life I would have feared before. Through the gorgeous setting at Patch, the loving staff, and the supportive environment I got the privilege of rekindling my relationship with God and once again felt hope and excitement for my future.

Patch helped me heal my relationship with my family, especially my mother whom I had struggled with for years. My father passed away in 2005, four years after I graduated from Patch. I wished I had been able to do more for him, things to help him live a more comfortable life. I let this desire motivate my career choices. I dedicated ten years to working with disabled seniors, Alzheimer's and dementia patients as well as caring for folks in hospice. I learned so much and a lot of healing came from this.

As an adult looking back at my experience at Patch I can honestly say that this program saved my life. Not only by providing a positive environment but by teaching me the necessary skills to live a healthy life.

After Patch I made many mistakes, but Patch prepared me with tools that came in handy during difficult times. I knew I was strong enough to overcome obstacles because I had developed skills and strengths through the program.

Since graduation, I met a wonderful man who is now my husband. Together we've established a deeper faith than either of us had ever known.

In 2017 while speaking to my mother about our future plans to relocate, I mentioned Idaho as a potential location. She immediately said, "What about Patch?" At first, I wasn't sure but added it to my list of things to pray for. I called Collen Donald, the Youth Program Director who had been my counselor during my time at Patch. Seventeen years had passed and all I could say was, "Hello, do you remember me?" She immediately said "Yes!" I'm still not sure she remembered me for good reasons!

I applied for a job in the girls' dorm and waited to see what happened. The doors started opening. My husband and I drove to Idaho for our two weeks of vacation and while on our camping trip near Patch we casually decided to look at properties. We didn't decide on anything but instead chose to pray and sleep on it. The next morning, we both looked at each other and simultaneously said "The log cabin!" We called our realtor right away. Within hours we were buying our first home, signing paperwork at the Garden Valley grocery store. Even though we were in camping clothes that smelled like our campfire, we knew the Holy Spirit was at work.

My application had been submitted but nothing was set in stone. Regardless we kept moving forward with our plan and started packing. Within a week I got the invitation to interview and do my 3-day volunteering at Patch.

In my heart I knew I could make a difference in the lives of the kids at Patch because I could relate to what they were going through. The call was loud and clear. We were on the right path. I got hired within one week of moving here and my husband shortly after. We're now both full-time staff and feel blessed to have the privilege of helping the kids at Patch and being a part of a wonderful community.

In conclusion, all of the experiences I've had equipped me to make a difference in people's lives and I owe that to God and to Project Patch. Many thanks to all the Patch staff of 2000-2001. Your work is appreciated and forever in my heart.



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



Calendar of Events

October 5-6

Refresh Conference

Chicago, IL

October 13

Family Seminar -

Being a Tech Safe Family

Sandy, OR

October 19-20

Parenting Seminar:

Raising Tech Safe Kids

Medford, OR

October 25-28

Family Experience

Goldendale, WA

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

To donate go to
projectpatch.org/donate

A Letter of Gratitude

Ms. Stephanie, I wanted to thank Patch, as well as yourself for the opportunity to spend almost two years at Patch. Not only did it reinforce my work and school ethic but helped me recognize and distance myself from toxic relationships/friendships. I would love to share my success story with you.

I was able to graduate high school early, thanks to Patch's amazing educational program. I have a great relationship with my parents, and was able to forgive, but also distance myself from anyone who negatively impacted my life. I had my first child, Jacqueline, at the beginning of 2012. She is so bright and is at the top of her Kindergarten class. My son, Anthony, was born at the end of 2014. He was 8 weeks early, weighing 1.7 lbs. He is a miracle angel. His father, Daniel, and I have been together since 2012, and even though we have ups and downs, it has been an amazing journey. We purchased our home in 2015, and he just broke off from his family business, starting our own painting and construction crew early last year. From 2013-2016, I was employed as a loan specialist here in our beautiful, scenic city of Chattanooga, Tennessee. In 2016, I was given the opportunity to manage a manufactured home community, which quickly turned into two communities. Because of the great work ethic was taught, I have moved up in this small company, and was given an additional community about 45 minutes away from home. It is a bit of a commute, but very character building, and my resume as a successful property manager, managing multiple properties, sales, collections, marketing, as well as office and residential management, can be nothing but highlights for any future employment opportunities that may come my way. (I have no plans on leaving this company.)

I just wanted to share with you how greatly Patch, and all the staff helped me get through some of the toughest times in my life. You gave me hope, dreams, and aspirations to never stop chasing my future of becoming an independent woman – healthy and free from hurt and drama –and a contributing member to society. I still do have extremely hard days. Days that I just want to stay in bed. My head swimming, or numb. Depression that I feel will never leave me alone. With the help of A LOT of saved, motivation videos on you tube, a great support team (my boss, husband, sister Lizzie, and godmother) and a sound system that can BLAST praise music, drowning out all negative thoughts, I have been able to successfully maneuver through life WITHOUT prescription meds, and most of all, be a present mother for two of the most wonderful children anyone could ask for.

Jennipher Guerra (formerly, Gingery)

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



Today's Family Experience Location

Location, location, location: The three most important things when considering buying a property. These three identical words are also the reason Project Patch has listed for sale our Family Center in Goldendale, Washington.

We've shared before that we were considering selling the property and this has been one of the most challenging and prayed-over decisions we have made.

If you don't read anything else in this newsletter, I hope you hear the following: Project Patch is not shutting down. We are not closing our youth program. We are not even ending our family program. We are changing the location of our family program, the location of our investment and the location of our focus.

Our Family Program has been located in Goldendale, Washington. It is a beautiful campus that has served us very well. Yet, the majority of families we serve live quite a distance from Goldendale. Many families that would like to attend the Family Experience can't... not because of the cost of the program but because of the cost of travel and time required to get to Goldendale.

When the Family Center sells, we will begin offering The Family Experience in locations across the United States. We will reduce the total cost of participation by coming closer to your location and using camps and conference centers owned by other organizations.

A second location change will be where we keep the money you trust us with. We currently have a great amount of money and time invested in the Family Center. When the property sells, the money will be used in such a way to ensure that Project Patch can continue to serve youth and families for years to come. We will focus on using funds to best serve hurting teens and families, not in maintaining buildings and developing property. Owning property is very expensive. Owning the property for the Youth Program in Idaho is critical for that program's success but for families, we don't need to invest in buildings and property.

Finally, we are directing the location of our focus. Our team and donors want to focus on helping kids and families. It's easy to get distracted by all the needs of managing multiple locations. Owning two sites has brought a level of complexity which has made it difficult to focus.

Location, location, location... all changing. God is directing us through a time of change and growth which will benefit many kids and families for years to come.

As the Family Center is for sale, we will continue to operate The Family Experience from Goldendale. You can learn more by going to www.thefamilyexperience.org.

Giving Back with Songs and Pictures

Few people have spent more time roaming the Project Patch Family Center than Gary Garvin. He remembers standing on the edge of the Little Klickitat River canyon listening to breeze sweeping through the rugged depths and hearing God's voice saying, "This is a healing place!" At the time there was nothing but grass, trees, and rocks.

He originally slept in the back of his truck, later rigging up a wall tent, a wood stove and "running water" from a tank on a stump. He helped build a beautiful campus with buildings, activities for families, and a network of nature trails...the trails are his favorite.

He's witnessed families learning to know each other better, gaining new skills and making their family function as God intended.

Gary loves nature, music and helping others. He shares music regularly in churches around the region and was thrilled when technology enabled him to combine his love of music and nature photography into creating inspiring DVD movies.

He's developed a special DVD which is very personal and special to us. First, the pictures and videos are all taken within a 50-mile radius of the Project Patch Family Center. Many pictures capture the beauty of our property. Second, Gary recorded songs which are a testament to our God who is so faithful. Finally, he created this project as a way to support the families and teens helped through Project Patch. He poured his talents, time and energy into this project as a benefit for Project Patch. All income from this DVD is being donated to Project Patch.

DVD's include nine songs set to beautiful images and sell for \$20.00. Order your DVD by calling 360-690-8495 emailing us at info@projectpatch.org or ordering online at www.projectpatch.org/GaryGarvin