



IN BRIEF

Parents' Newsletter

Education Director, Jennifer Van Dyk, created a newsletter to update parents on the school program. The first issue detailed the Idaho State Achievement Test (ISAT) process recently completed by our students. With the ISAT, our school is eligible for state funding, which allowed the purchase of a set of 2005 World Book Encyclopedias, new Algebra I and US History books, countless school supplies, and math software.

New Website

We overhauled our website! We can now accept donations on line at www.projectpatch.org. Visit us, you'll be surprised at what you find!

On-Line Auction

Participate in an auction from the comfort of your home with PATCH supporters from all over the United States and Canada. Quality items are needed. Further information will be mailed in mid-summer.

Chapel Project

Marantha volunteers have raised nearly \$100,000 for a chapel at the Ranch. Construction begins June 7 continuing through July 5. The final phase will begin August 14 with a dedication service scheduled for September 10.

PATCH works!

New wood shop addition



Recently, youth mentor Brian Brutsman asked a question, "Why can't we have a woodworking shop for the kids?" It was a

very good question and sparked a flurry of activity resulting in the start of a woodworking shop. The storage building behind the shop was cleared out and work began. Tools were donated and money was raised. Project PATCH now has the beginnings of an excellent woodworking shop.



Brian is a good woodworker and enjoys sharing his skills with the kids. In a recent

project the kids built birdhouses to put up around the Ranch. Ranch staff has been challenged to create activities that cause the kids to rally. Brian is an example of one of our many staff members who took that challenge seriously.

An alumna speaks out

PATCH alumna, Abbie Payne, recently was the guest of Walt Baker on the Boise Channel 2 television program "Eye on Idaho." Host Baker asked Abbie and PATCH employee, Jennifer Matoske, about their experiences at PATCH. With enthusiasm, Abbie said, "At PATCH the staff are more like your family and you get emotionally attached to them...they really care about you."

Abbie did a wonderful job describing the emotional challenges she faced as a teen, the behaviors she engaged in, and the circumstances that brought her into treatment at the Ranch. She then shared how connections with Ranch staff were what helped motivate her to make positive and lasting changes in her life.

They also had a lively discussion on current issues facing teens and their parents. The program aired on Sunday, April 3, 2005, and generated positive viewer response.



His incredible journey:

My divorce came at a crucial time in [REDACTED] life. He seemed withdrawn, angry and was failing school. I was a single parent of two teenaged boys and a little girl, working full time and trying to go to college. Many times I wondered if I was losing my son to some sinister evil force I could not stave off, despite my prayers and the prayers of those who lovingly supported us.

In desperation I searched for help, dragging [REDACTED] from one counselor to another. After some encounters with law enforcement, I chose not to wait for the State to decide where my son would find help; I looked for a program to get him on the right track. I looked into out-of-state facilities costing more than I could afford on my church secretary salary.

One day my pastor shared that he'd heard about a place here in Idaho! I eagerly checked out Project PATCH's website. The structured program and Christian emphasis, although different from what we were used to, sounded good. However, the expense was way beyond our financial situation. Still I called the office where I was encouraged to fill out an application and pray. Miraculously, God brought together the financing we needed!

Soon my dad and I were visiting the campus and making preparations for [REDACTED] to enter the program.

[REDACTED] did not share my enthusiasm. In fact, he was downright nasty. I drove away in tears, leaving [REDACTED] with people I barely knew. It would be weeks before I could see him again.

I wish I could say [REDACTED] made a quick turn around and was soon home and lived happily ever after. The program that should have taken him nine months to complete dragged on...and on. He was stubborn, resistant to changing his behavior and manipulative. However, [REDACTED] met his match in the PATCH staff! They knew how to thump him when he needed it and love him always.

Half-way through [REDACTED] time at PATCH, God brought a wonderful man into my life. We soon married, and [REDACTED] became [REDACTED] dad in every way, our difficult and painful situations became his own. Through hard work [REDACTED] won [REDACTED] love and admiration. Knowing a caring family was waiting in a new town where he could start over gave [REDACTED] courage and determination to graduate the program and come home.

God blessed him with great teachers and friends. He found that he loved music, especially singing and playing guitar. After graduating from high school with a 3.0 average, he toured the United States and Thailand with the Continental Singers.

On his 18th birthday, [REDACTED] put together a "rite of passage" for [REDACTED] Family, friends and several PATCH staff gathered in our home to share their wisdom and encouragement. What a blessing to have so many loving men surround him with prayer. Later that summer [REDACTED] honored his Dad by legally adding [REDACTED] to his name.

With graduation accomplished, we searched for a program to prepare [REDACTED] for what God is calling him to do—working with at-risk youth. "Explore," a program designed to develop "excellence in character, leadership skills and train for wilderness ministry," from Prairie

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*"I hated you for sending me here, but now I realize it is the best thing you could have done for me. Thanks, Mom. I love you!"
These words on my Mother's Day card from [REDACTED] my son at
Project PATCH, brought tears to my eyes. — [REDACTED]*

His incredible journey...continued

Bible College in Alberta, Canada, fits [REDACTED] dream of giving back to others what PATCH has given him.

Now, as the close of the last semester of "Explore" approaches, I think of the incredible journey we have been on...my son, God and I...joined by a godly man who willingly jumped in to be a leader and role model when he probably could have had a more simple, serene life had he remained single!

[REDACTED] will most likely continue at Prairie Bible College to earn his four-year degree in ministry. He hopes to find a place where he can help hurting young people just as the wonderful people at Project PATCH poured their love into his wounded soul.

All praise to the God of the Universe who loves us and heals us if we place Him in the center of our lives!



Counselor Corry Current

Corry came to Project PATCH as a graduate of the MSW program at Walla Walla College. He serves as a member of the Counseling Staff. Corry has an amazing energy level and uses this energy to engage the kids in activities such as rock climbing, woodworking, biking and team sports. Corry is a supportive yet firm counselor who inspires the kids not to use their circumstances as an excuse for failure. You will typically see Corry on campus with kids in tow on the way to a project or activity.

Serving bread and serving God

The rich aroma of cinnamon, butter, and brown sugar ooze together while another luscious batch of home made breakfast rolls bake in the oven at the Ranch— ready to greet staff and residents first



thing in the morning. In the late afternoon the tempting scent of home-made dinner rolls entices the youth to wash up quickly— it is almost time for dinner. The kind smile that welcomes each person coming through the food line is as heartwarming as the fresh bread being served with each meal. The smile and the bread are gifts that Dori Ahlers, Food Service Director, imparts to all who come through the kitchen at Project PATCH Ranch.

Home-made bread is not the only bounty Dori brings to PATCH. With a diverse background in food service, and service to those in need, Dori has a unique mix of nurturing skills and professionalism. With a Culinary Arts Diploma from the Western Culinary Institute and over three years experience in catering and baking, Dori also served as Assistant Food Service Director at Canby Grove Conference Center honing her budgeting and planning skills. She was the night House Manager at Cookies Retreat Center, a Christian domestic violence retreat center in Spokane, Washington. Dori's nurturing skills were clearly seen in her time spent as a Teacher's Assistant and Pre-Kindergarten Teacher in Portland, Oregon. Dori has two adult daughters, and is the proud Nana of five grandchildren.

Dori loves the small town feel of Garden Valley. She grew up in rural Washington and feels as if she is "back home." Dori expressed her coming to the Ranch as a "God Thing." She is delighted to share her talents and creativity in God's service. PATCH staff and residents look forward to each smile and delicious bite.



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PATCH works! is a bi-annual newsletter published by Project PATCH for alumni, board members, parents, staff, and philanthropic supporters...

Comments are welcomed please contact 503-653-8086 or patch@projectpatch.org

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Photos: Corry Current, Jennifer Matoske, Tom Sanford

PATCH **works!** BOUQUETS

My husband and I believe in the work that you do with at-risk kids and want to see it continue. Thank you for your efforts, and may God bless the staff that serves, and the young people that learn of His love for them as well as ways to cope in this crazy world. Medford, OR

I thank God that you dear folks answered the call that He put in your hearts years ago for our kids! Wilsonville, OR

I have the utmost respect for PATCH, God bless you, everyone! Faithful Supporter

We follow your work and accomplishments and marvel at what you are doing. We wish the opportunity for every young person could be offered far and wide. God bless in your wonderful dedication. Grandview, WA

PROJECT PATCH WISH LIST

- RAKES (EACH)\$10
- SHOVELS (EACH)\$13
- 3 HEAVY DUTY VACUUM CLEANERS (EACH)\$400
- 1 LARGE WALK BEHIND SNOWBLOWER\$2,200
- 1 INDUSTRIAL DRYER\$2,900
- 1 INDUSTRIAL WASHING MACHINE FOR SLEEPING BAGS\$3,100
- 1 FIRE PUMPER FOR PICKUP (LIKE FOREST SERVICE USES)\$3,500
- GYMNASTIC FLOOR MATS?

GIFTS IN KIND

PATCH received the largest number of gifts in kind in 2004 than in any previous year of its history. Major gifts included a 1974 Ford F500 service truck w/300 gallon fuel tank, a 2000 Series Truckhoe, a 2000 Ford Ranger XLT, a 1993 Ford 1-Ton 4x4 Crew Cab Pickup, a new ice maker, a 1983 Nissan Sentra XE, accommodations at the Sands of Kahana Vacation Club on Maui for 1 week, a 1990 Ford Aerostar van, and the use of a Hitachi 120 excavator for 2 weeks. Many items have been very useful at both Garden Valley and Goldendale. Others were sold to help provide scholarships for young people. **Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who gave.**