

ANYNA RETURNS TO PROJECT PATCH

The last time Anyna (pronounced ahn-ya) had been at Patch was in 1997, and she left with mixed feelings. She came a year before, hopeful that she'd get the help she needed and that her mom would do the hard work necessary so that Anyna could return home and get the care she longed for.

She didn't come to Patch because of problems with drinking, drugs, fighting, or sex. She'd run away from home because she didn't know any other way to get people's attention and the help she desperately needed. She was often blamed rather than helped with problems in her home.

After 13 months, she was pulled from the program. She hadn't completed Patch, and her mom hadn't done the work to change. Anyna was disappointed, confused, and angry and didn't leave with the best memories of her experience.

Yet she didn't stop growing. She continued seeking healing, and God continued to show up. People listened to her. They took the time to teach and guide her. People in her church became like family to her and supported her. Her mom's best friend helped her gain perspective and see that the mistreatment she received was not her fault, that she was worthy of being treated with care.

Anyna continued to receive and read PatchWorks newsletters. She read them with a mix of interest, sadness, and curiosity.

While reading the spring newsletter, she felt a calling to sign up as a Maranatha Volunteer. She was nervous not only about coming back to Patch but also about whether the group would judge and condemn her when they learned of her past and struggles.

She and her service dog, Jayse (an Italian Greyhound), drove from Louisiana and arrived, unsure of what the next 16 days would hold. She would be sleeping in a borrowed tent, and the campus, while familiar, was much different.

She was part of the paint crew, which prepared the lumber for the replacement porches and painted buildings. She was painting buildings that were brand new when she was last on campus almost three decades ago.

"They enjoyed having me around," she discovered. "They were clearly happy I was there, welcoming me to help with the tasks." The Maranatha group brought warmth and positivity into her life. A surprise was just how caring people were, and it helped her process and heal as well as see things from different perspectives.

As she worked, she often asked staff questions about what it was like now at Patch. She observed the kids and staff interacting and noticed that the program focused on developing relationships with all the teens. She noticed that the "level program," which had focused on privileges and consequences, was no longer in place. She saw that the staff made it

clear to the teens that they are accepted and loved, given support and care, and taught how to process their trauma and live productive lives.

Anyna had the opportunity to work alongside Ron Miller, a former staff member and Maranatha Volunteer, as well as establish connections with other former staff members. She experienced healing and gained insight as she shared her story and felt heard in the process.

One night, she talked with the girls in the dorm during worship. She shared some of her story and encouraged the girls to consider that there are people out there who are for them, support them, care for them, and want them to succeed. While it may be hard to see, people are praying for them and doing what they can to help.

She discovered the Patch Amazon wishlist (projectpatch.org/amazonwishlist) and bought art supplies and an RC helicopter to serve as a visual reminder that she cares for them and wants them to succeed. She wanted them to have nice things as a reminder that they have someone on their side, a former Patch girl.

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FREE TIME

We have busy days and a lot of structured time at Project Patch. Counseling, groups, school, chores, and recreation fill the day. Yet, we also make free time a priority. This is the perfect time to pursue hobbies, relax, and hang out with friends and staff.

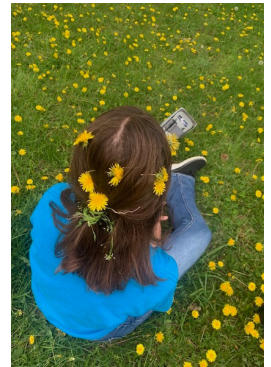
We stock the dorms with items such as skateboards, guitars, art supplies, footballs, yarn, chessboards, baseballs, basketballs, scooters, books, and games. There are plenty of choices whether the teen wants to do something alone or with someone else. It's not unusual to see staff and teens playing catch while other teens are shooting baskets.

When the weather changes, teens often move inside and focus on crafts, music, games, and reading. Yet teens often move outside and play in the snow, play "horse" on the covered hoops, and work on the mountain bike paths.

Free time gives choices, development of social skills, and self-regulation. It isn't an accident that we work hard even to make free time therapeutic.

Many of our teens struggled with technology use before coming to Patch. Their phones, computers, and games commanded their attention and used up their time.

Gaining ownership of their free time is a big step in preparing them to return home and live more purposeful and fun lives.



YOUTH PROGRAM HAPPENINGS



ANYNA RETURNS...

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Anyna's return to Patch after 29 years away was another piece of her healing and growth. She worked as part of the team and was able to clearly express her feelings and needs. She was gaining a helpful perspective that mourned the painful aspects of the past while also seeing God at work.

As the project's end approached, it became clear that Anyna was ready to graduate from Project Patch. Chuck Hagele approached her and asked whether it would be meaningful to her to have a graduation from Project Patch. She hadn't even thought about the possibility, but instantly knew it was a dream come true, a prayer answered. She saw it as a fulfillment of Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." God had opened doors, walked with her, and with His help, she had experienced another level of healing.



During Maranatha worship on her last night, Anyna wore a graduation robe, walked down the aisle, and received a certificate stating, "The Chief Executive Officer, by virtue of the authority granted by the Project Patch Board of Directors and staff, with the support of the Maranatha Volunteers, has conferred on Anyna this Certificate of Accomplishment. Recognizing that she has made significant progress in learning to regulate her emotions and attend to her feelings. Since leaving Project Patch in 1997, she has continued to develop skills like using "I Feel" Statements while also committing to live in the service of others."

Maranatha volunteers encouraged her, shared Bible promises and committed to support her as she continues her journey. After a prayer of thanks and dedication, Patch gained a new graduate.

Anyna and her dog Jayse left Patch for the long three-day drive home. She left in a much different state than when she arrived. She left with new friends, sore muscles from hard work, deeper insight into God's love, and additional memories about what it means to be a Patch kid.

TO DONATE GO TO
projectpatch.org/donate25

MARANATHA - CAMPUS UPDATES COMPLETE . . . WHAT'S NEXT?

The numbers are impressive: 32 years of partnership, 26 projects, 1017 volunteers, and 401 days of volunteering. Maranatha Volunteers International is an amazing partner who has helped build, maintain, and improve our campus.

The numbers are even more impressive when you consider that there was an 11-year gap from 2010 to 2021, during which Maranatha was willing to help, but Project Patch lacked the resources to cover the expenses for supplies and hosting volunteers.

In the fall of 2019, Dave Woods, North American and Zambia Project Coordinator for Maranatha, called asking whether it was time to plan another volunteer project at Patch. He was sure that he could assemble a group of volunteers if we had a list of projects. We had a long list: every building on campus needed siding repaired and painted, windows needed replacing, and staff rental units needed updating. Some buildings required changes to handle the snow load.

The list was overwhelming, but Dave was confident that God would provide if we stepped out in faith. We decided to move forward, but then we encountered our first setback: COVID. All plans screeched to a stop, but we didn't give up. In the summer of 2021, we welcomed 42 volunteers to our campus to replace the siding and windows on our main buildings. The windows were ordered months in advance but didn't arrive. However, there was still plenty of work to do on the siding and painting. It wasn't until June of 2022 that the windows finally arrived. God knew what He was doing. While waiting for windows, God provided the wood needed for window casings.

Each year, the list of maintenance projects became shorter as buildings were repaired, improved, and repainted. In September of 2025, 30 volunteers helped finish the campus updates. Every building on our lower campus matches and looks new. Safety concerns have been addressed, and long-needed improvements have been made. Our 30+ year old campus looks brand new. Prayers were answered, and God was faithful.

As we look forward, we have two critical needs and a dream. First, staff housing in our rural community is very limited and expensive. It is challenging to recruit staff when housing options are limited or when there is a need to commute to find affordable housing. We have some rental housing available, but it isn't adequate to meet the demand. We would like to build three quad-plex units to provide staff with adequate, convenient, and affordable housing.



Therapy is the primary reason teens come to us; however, we don't have a counseling center. We need a place for therapist offices, counseling rooms, video conferencing rooms for family counseling, and a staff training room. We would like to build a counseling services wing onto our school, which would provide a central hub for therapy. This wing would also include a weight room addition to the gym.

Finally, we dream of sharing the tools, insights, and skills that God has given us. We feel called to create a space for training parents, teachers, pastors, counselors, and mentors. We believe God is calling us to be more active in creating media to share through social media, television, and online platforms. God has placed a dream of a training and media center on our campus.

Will you join us in prayer as we consider these next steps? We don't currently have the financial resources to address these critical needs. We welcome your ideas, input, and support as we step into this next phase. If you'd like to be involved, please reach out to Chuck Hagele at 360-690-8495 or chuck@projectpatch.org.

Maranatha Volunteers are ready to get to work. Let's get Project Patch ready as well.



JOIN OUR PRAYER TEAM!

Project Patch depends on your prayers. Learn how to pray for our ministry and receive our monthly prayer updates.

Sign up at projectpatch.org/prayer



WISH LIST

For those who prefer to give toward a specific project, the following list contains items that are needed, yet are not part of the operating budget.

- Ski Trips (6) - \$500/dorm
- Pinewood Derby - \$200
- Pumpkin Party - \$100/dorm
- Minivan - \$45,000
- Sleds (10)** - \$50/each
- Snow Shovels (8)** - \$35/each
- Rakes (10) - \$25/each
- Smores Party - \$50/dorm
- Music Stands (6)** - \$40/each
- Camping Equipment - \$300
- Ice Skating Trip - \$300/dorm

** Also available from Amazon at www.projectpatch.org/AmazonWishList

Please note on your gift if you would like it designated for a *specific* Wish List item or the *highest need* Wish List item. If the item has already been purchased, we will contact you for further instructions.

To donate via credit card:
call (360)690-8495

OR

donate online at
www.projectpatch.org/wishlist

OR

mail a check to the address below

CONTACT US

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www.projectpatch.org
(360)690-8495

PLEASE

Let us know if your address, email,
or phone number has changed!

PIECING IT TOGETHER by Chuck Hagele

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.” Ecclesiastes 3:1

Solomon writes about seasons for planting and harvesting, for weeping and laughing, for tearing and mending, and for being silent and speaking. At Patch, it feels like all these seasons collide, and we experience pieces of all of them at the same time.

Maranatha Volunteers were on campus doing both tearing down and mending. Decks were torn down and rotten wood removed before rebuilding. We practiced keeping and throwing away as the burn pile grew into a mountain.

Seasons collide, and we feel whiplash as the exact moment can be filled with laughter and tears. Solomon tried to make meaning of the conflicting seasons and spent 12 chapters wondering how to navigate our disorienting existence. His conclusion in Ecclesiastes 12:13 is simple but not easy: “Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man.”

Fearing God doesn't mean we have anxiety toward God; it means we have reverence, awe, obedience, respect, and a belief that He is for us. In all situations, whether laughing or crying, we can trust in God's presence, provision, and love.

Our task, then, in every situation is to be commandment keepers, striving to live out wholehearted love for God while actively loving those God places near us (Matthew 22:37-40).

Regardless of the season, we focus on faithfully loving God while caring for others.

This issue of PatchWorks captures just a piece of us trying to live that out. Anya's story demonstrates God's care and faithfulness, as well as the powerful outcome of serving others. Her willingness to trust God in returning to Patch opened new doors of healing and connection.

We receive bequests and donations in honor of those who have passed. There is sorrow in losing a loved one, yet there is also celebration in lives being transformed in their memory.

Whatever season you are in, I pray that as you read this issue, you will be encouraged in your faith and love for others.



HELP US STAY CONNECTED

We want to be sure we have your most up-to-date contact information and preferred method of communication. Please take a moment to update your details so we can continue sharing important updates.

Visit www.projectpatch.org/update or call (360)690-8495 to update your information.



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