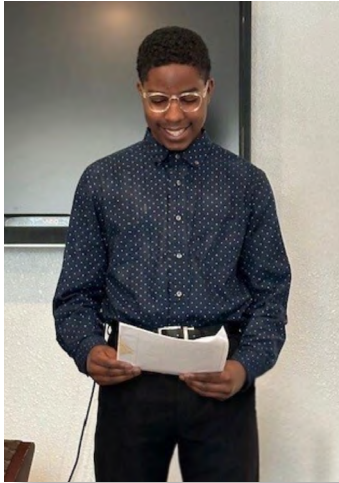




ONE STEP AT A TIME - *Hope grows one step at a time.*



At Project Patch, success doesn't happen all at once. It grows one smart decision, one honest conversation, one step at a time — just like it does in life beyond our campus. With each step, our teens learn — and then practice — what it means to offer care, accept care, develop healthy independence, and work with others to meet their needs. As they build trust and confidence, they earn the opportunity to take the next step — and with it, the possibility of greater freedoms and responsibility.

Success doesn't happen all at once — it grows one honest conversation, one brave step, one moment of hope at a time.

The first eight weeks (minimum) at Project Patch are considered the *Learning Phase*, described in our Program Handbook as a time focused on building safety, trust, and emotional connection. During this step, you might see a teen begin to shut down in group therapy and disconnect from the activity. In response, our staff would sit nearby, offer calm reassurance, and help the teen regulate their emotions until they feel safe and ready to rejoin the group. Once their counselor determines the teen has learned these Step 1 skills, they can petition the Care Team to “step up” to the next step.

REAL PATCH MOMENT: *One boy walked into our group therapy session beaming. He showed me the corner of his folder — the Petition to Step Up! He was so proud to be given the petition, and those moments are exciting for us all!*

The next twelve weeks (minimum) will be the *Demonstrating Phase*. This step is described as a time when teens begin applying the skills they learned in Step 1 with more independence. During this step, you might see a teen get into a disagreement with a peer and, instead of reacting, attempt to talk it through using the 5 Life Skills. In response, our staff stays nearby to coach and guide only when needed, gently scaffolding their growing independence by encouraging them to use their skills. As they show consistency, teens on Step 2 may also earn small freedoms — such as stepping outside the dorm on their own to sit on the swing — giving them safe opportunities to practice independence. When their counselor determines that the teen is consistently practicing these skills, they will again be ready to petition to “step up.”

REAL PATCH MOMENT: *One girl was denied her Step Up twice. She was given specific guidance on areas to work on — and then came the lightbulb moment when she finally “got it” and began putting those skills into real life. Moments like that change things for them — and for us as well, as we get to witness that growth!*

The *Modeling Phase* is the final step — and not every teen will reach this point during their time at Patch. Many complete the program successfully while still in Step 2. For those who make it to Step 3, this phase is described as a time when teens begin modeling the 5 Life Skills for others, taking on leadership roles, and supporting newer peers as they learn the ropes. During this step, you might see a teen notice a newer peer struggling with a chore — like sweeping the floor or doing their laundry — and step in to gently show them how to do it. In response, our staff would offer praise or encouragement, reinforcing the teen's leadership while staying close enough to support if needed. At this point, they have developed the skills needed for success after Patch.

REAL PATCH MOMENT: *One boy's final petition before graduation was incredibly special. Sharing in that moment allowed us to celebrate the growth we'd seen and offer encouragement, advice, and wisdom for the future — a privilege for everyone in the room!*

Petition to Step Up!

Name: _____
Request to move from _____ to _____
Date Request Sheet Given: _____
Goal Achieved: _____

FIVE Life Skills: How are you using them?

1. Be Safe
2. Be Respectful
3. Be Responsible
4. Be Helpful
5. Be Trustworthy

Questions to Consider

1. Why would you like to Step Up? What is your motivation?
2. How have you met the expectations for the Step you are currently on?
3. What have you done well? How does this affect your future?
4. What have you struggled with? How could this affect your success and how do you plan for it?
5. How do you plan to improve/ Step Up in the future?

Continued on page 2 . . .

YOUTH PROGRAM HAPPENINGS

Skiing & Prayer Circle with the Boys



New Years & Scavenger Hunt with the Girls



TO DONATE GO TO
projectpatch.org/donate26

As the teen completes each phase, they are given the opportunity to “Petition to Step Up!” by their counselor, if they are deemed ready. This is a chance for them to practice real-life skills, much like preparing for an interview or applying for a job. The petition guides them through reflecting on their use of the 5 Life Skills, how they have met the expectations of the current step and why they would like to step up, what they’ve done well, the struggles they’re still working on, and why they believe they’re ready for more responsibility.

On the day of their presentation, the teen dresses in their best clothes, stands before the Care Team — a counselor, an administrator, a teacher, and a dorm staff — and shares their petition. The team may ask questions, celebrate their progress, and offer guidance.

If a teen isn’t approved yet, it’s never a failure. They receive encouraging, specific feedback on what to keep practicing so they can succeed next time. For many teens, this process becomes a huge confidence-builder as they learn to advocate for themselves.

As success grows — one act of leadership, one petition presentation, one step at a time — our hope is that each teen leaves Patch ready to care for themselves, care for others, and step confidently into life beyond our campus. Real change doesn’t happen all at once. It happens step by step — and we are honored to walk those steps with them.

Learn more about the Five Life Skills: www.projectpatch.org/lifeskills



MARANATHA PROJECT - A hopeful delay.

One of my least favorite things to hear when I fly is, “I’m sorry to report, there is going to be a delay...” I don’t like canceled flights, but at least then I can start working out a plan.

This year, we are delaying our Maranatha volunteer project. The enthusiastic group has done so much to improve our campus already, including siding, paint, windows, porches, and a host of other projects.

Yet we still have several much-needed projects ahead. The first is additional staff housing due to limited and inadequate housing in our community. The second is an addition to our school for a Counseling Center. We need a centralized location for our therapist offices, counseling rooms, and a group counseling room. We also need rooms better equipped for video-conferencing family sessions.

So why aren’t we building this year? Unfortunately, these projects far exceed our current financial resources. It’s wonderful to have volunteer labor – but our projects also require building materials. We estimate that we will need to raise nearly \$2 million to fully complete these capital projects. At the same time, we are working to raise nearly \$1.2 million annually just to keep our doors open.

Pilots often explain that they don’t have an exact take-off time because they’re waiting for the maintenance team to complete repairs. We aren’t waiting for a maintenance team — we know God is at work, and we wait with expectation for the miracles we know are just around the corner.

In the meantime, we pray, prepare, and invite you to do the same.

Happy
Easter

He has risen, just as He said. Matthew 28:6

May the promise of Easter bring you hope and joy.



MANY WAYS TO GIVE - *One mission of hope.*



In 1 Peter 4:10, we are called to serve by using the gifts we've been given for the good of others. In 2025, 436 donors answered that call, each in a way that reflected personal passions, resources, and heart to give. This is demonstrated beautifully by looking at three of our most frequent donors. Their support shows that there are many meaningful ways to be part of Patch's story and mission—both now and in the future.

Our most frequent donor prefers to remain anonymous and is one of three donors who have given to Patch more than 500 times! He started giving because he was inspired by a teacher who worked at Patch. He continues

to give because he wholeheartedly believes in the mission. He supports the **General Fund**, ensuring that day-to-day operations can continue transforming lives.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others . . . 1 Peter 4:10 NIV

Tyson, another one of our most frequent donors, gives to the **Tom Sanford Memorial Scholarship Fund**. As the parent of a former client, he shares, "Through scholarships others paid for me, so now I give to Patch to help other families." His giving helped a grandmother who told us, "I cried out to the Lord to please help us because we had no idea what to do... I applied thinking we [my grandchild] wouldn't be able to come because I didn't have the money." Scholarship gifts like this allow us to offer hope during a family's most difficult moments.

Sue, also a frequent donor, enjoys giving through our **Wish List**. After a difficult childhood, she "has a soft heart for these kids and feels blessed to be able to give them the experiences in the snow every kid should have." She sponsored a recent ski trip in which a girl ended up on a run beyond her skill level. She later told staff, "I'm really grateful for this experience... [and that] I decided I wasn't going to let a bad ten seconds ruin my day. Had I not been [at Patch], I wouldn't have had this chance [to ski]." Gifts like these create moments teens remember for a lifetime.

Other donors choose tax-wise ways to give — such as **IRA Charitable Distributions** or grants from **Donor-Advised Funds**. Some look even further ahead by including Patch in their **Legacy Plans** through a bequest or beneficiary designation. These gifts help ensure that Patch will be here for the next generation of hurting teens.

Through gifts big and small—through gifts offered now or those planned for the future—our donors support our mission of restoring hope to teens, building thriving families, and empowering supportive communities. We invite you to join them in 2026, in the way that is most meaningful to you. Help us create new stories of hope for the teens who will walk through our doors next.

WORDS FROM OUR TEENS

Each month, our teens share their own words on a classroom prompt.

This month's prompt: Something You Love

- | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------------------|
| • Friendship | • God | • Smiles | • Forgiveness | • Kindness |
| • Peace | • Snow | • Education | • Ice Cream | • Accomplishments |
| • Sharing | • Puzzles | • Giving | • Memories | • Fishing |
| • Talking | • Drawing | • Books | • Jesus | • Life |
| • Pizza | • Road Trips | • Bible | • Gardening | • Understanding |
| • Laughing | • Music | • Sunshine | • Learning | • Animals |



GIVING DAY 2026

KICKS OFF WEDNESDAY, MAY 6TH AT 9AM PT/10AM MT

This 24-hour online event invites you to join donors who give from the heart—supporting the dorm activities that help teens practice skills and take their next steps forward.

WWW.PROJECTPATCH.ORG/GIVINGDAY



GOAL \$2500

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.

- 12 Life Jackets - \$50 each
- Basketballs (12-pack)** - \$100
- Soccer Balls (6-pack)** - \$40
- Kites (3-pack)** - \$25
- 2 Skateboards** - \$40 each
- 2 Kick Scooters** - \$90 each
- Fishing Lures** - \$30
- 6 Rafting Trip (3/dorm) - \$500 each
- 2 Rock Climbing Trip (1/dorm) - \$750 each
- 20 Bike Water Bottles** - \$18 each
- Chapel Music Rights - \$150
- 12-Foot Ladder - \$350
- 15 Rakes - \$30 each
- Flower Bulbs** - \$100
- 4 Gardening Glove Sets** - \$15 each

** Also available on 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

By phone: call (360) 690-8495

Online: www.projectpatch.org/wishlist

By check: mail to the address below

CONTACT US

PO Box 820209
Vancouver, WA 98682

info@projectpatch.org
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

As a young pastor, I was always relieved when I ran into Terry, a church member, at a restaurant. He was a food safety inspector. He knew what things looked like behind the scenes! My thought was that if Terry ate here, I was probably pretty safe.

One day, I saw him at a fast-food restaurant that didn't have the best reputation. I told him it was a relief to see him eating there. He looked sheepish and said, "I eat here when I'm rushed and don't have other options. My eating here isn't an endorsement."

This issue of PatchWorks takes you behind the scenes at Patch. We want you to be comfortable – to see what has built our reputation and won your support. We want you to see how we operate differently to help teens succeed.

First, teens come to Patch because of harmful behaviors. Parents want their teens' self-harming, explosive, anxious, depressive, or other harmful behaviors to stop. Our program is highly successful in helping teens overcome these challenges, but that isn't enough. John 10:10 NIV says, "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." This verse guides us to the even more challenging task of helping teens discover abundance. A full life comes in the form of restoring hope in Christ, building positive relationships, discovering purpose, and developing successful strategies. Our Step Program is all about helping teens move toward an abundant life.

A full life comes in the form of restoring hope in Christ, building positive relationships, discovering purpose, and developing successful strategies.

Second, Project Patch is a non-profit that partners with donors to help teens and families. We strive to make excellent mental health care and education available to teens who need it, not just for families who can afford it. Giving is a spiritual act and takes many forms. This issue shares why and how people give and invites you to consider how God is calling you to give.

Finally, come and see us. We'd love for you to visit our campus and for us to show you behind the scenes. Our campus is beautiful, but people leave most inspired by our teens and staff, and more committed to helping these amazing teens on their journey to an abundant life.

If you want to visit our campus or learn more, give us a call at (360) 690-5539 or email us at info@projectpatch.org.



JOIN US



WE ARE HIRING: Do you enjoy working with teens and love the outdoors? Then we might be just the place for you! Open Positions: Therapist, Boys Dorm, and Paid Therapist Intern.

Get the details and apply at: www.projectpatch.org/jobs

JOIN OUR PRAYER TEAM: The power of prayer is undeniable. Join us in praying for our teens, staff, and Patch supporters with this monthly e-newsletter.

Sign up at: www.projectpatch.org/prayerteam

SINCE 1984



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.