



PATCH *works*

PLANTING SEEDS OF FAITH



Joseph's Baptism

One afternoon, our chaplain stood beside a young man as he stepped into the river on our property. It was cold—really cold—but Joseph didn't hesitate. After months of growth, questions, and quiet transformation, he chose to be baptized right there, surrounded by his family, peers, and the staff who had walked alongside him. It was a visible, powerful moment—but it was also the result of something more: seeds of faith that had been planted and growing all along.

Faith is one of the four pillars of life at Project Patch, alongside education, therapy, and mentorship. While faith is foundational to who we are, the teens who come to us arrive in very different places. Some bring a strong faith background. Others are unsure what they believe. A few arrive convinced there is no God at all. Wherever they begin, teens are expected to attend and be respectful as they encounter faith in daily life at Patch. What it looks like for them, and what they do with it, is ultimately their choice.

Faith at Project Patch is a part of daily life. Teens attend Bible class, Sabbath service, pray before meals, and take part in morning and evening dorm worship. These moments don't all look the same. Dorm worships, in particular, reflect the personalities and experiences of the staff who lead them. Some read the Bible and invite meaningful conversation, while others

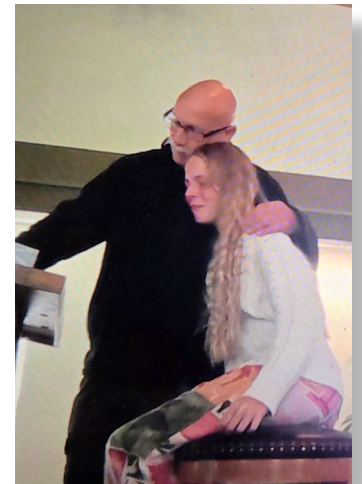
guide students through devotional reflection or journal prompts. Still others share stories from the lives of missionaries and talk honestly about faith lived out in real life. Through it all, teens see faith modeled consistently—but not scripted and never forced.

Joseph's story is one example of how that environment can take root. "My faith journey at Patch didn't start right away," he shared. Initially, he was focused on fitting in, being cool, and seeking approval. Over time, as faith was modeled around him day after day, something began to shift. Eventually, he felt called to take a step he hadn't planned on. "I really felt God tugging at me to get baptized, so I decided to listen," Joseph said. Even standing in freezing river water couldn't deter him. After that step, Joseph began to describe himself differently—more kind, more honest, and wanting to do what Jesus would want, while encouraging his peers to do the same. But that change didn't happen overnight; it grew out of patience, presence, and the freedom to choose faith for himself.

Before I was saved, I was a kid who was lost. –Joseph

Like Joseph, Julia's faith journey at Project Patch didn't begin right away—but what followed looked very different. When she arrived, she believed there was a God—but she didn't trust Him. Growing up in a Christian family, she said she "went through all of the motions"—going to church, occasionally reading the Bible (which felt like a chore), and knowing how to give the "right" answers. Prayer, she said, was driven more by fear than connection, shaped by the question she carried with her: "How could a loving God let this happen to me?"

Then one evening during dorm worship, a simple discussion changed everything. As staff talked about Noah's Ark being sealed with tar, the idea that Jesus covers our sins—completely—clicked. "When I heard that Jesus covers our sins, inside and out, something just made sense," Julia shared. In that moment, she jumped out of her seat—surrounded by peers and staff—and "gave my life to Him." From then on, she said, "I was able to improve my relationships with the Lord, my peers, my staff, and my family." She later reflected, "God isn't looking for ability—He's looking for availability." Choosing to listen marked the beginning of lasting change and a new peace others could feel around her.



Julia's Graduation

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YOUTH PROGRAM HAPPENINGS

Hiking & Cooking Class with the Boys



Ropes Course & Rafting with the Girls



TO DONATE GO TO
projectpatch.org/donate26

Across campus, one of the clearest signs of faith growing is how many teens volunteer to pray out loud—during meals, worship, group settings, or even individually for one another. Most don't do this when they first arrive. But over time, as prayer is modeled again and again, it becomes normal. Teens begin to recognize there isn't a "right" way to pray. In one of these everyday moments, a teen noticed a staff member having a hard day and asked if she could pray for them. They learn that each voice matters, that each prayer is personal, and that confidence grows in an environment of safety and consistency.

Faith here doesn't look the same for every teen. For some, it begins quietly. For others, it becomes a step they're ready to take. It's not something handed to them—it's something they begin to choose.

At Project Patch, we often talk about planting seeds. Not every teen leaves with a fully formed faith, and not every story includes a dramatic moment like Joseph's cold baptism or Julia's *aha!* moment while they are still with us. But that doesn't mean nothing is happening. Seeds are planted daily—in conversations, questions, and quiet moments of worship. Some grow quickly. Others take time. But the soil is prepared, and the possibility remains. And because of that, every moment here matters.

A DAY OF PRAYER

They stood in a circle around the flagpole, taking turns reading prayers out loud. The flag moved in the breeze above them as teens stepped forward—one by one—to lift up their voices on behalf of others.

On Thursday, May 7, Project Patch joined communities across the country in observing the 75th annual National Day of Prayer. Established by Congress, it's a day set aside each year for people across the United States to pause and pray for the nation—for its leaders, its communities, and its future.

Before heading outside, teens gathered in the chapel to learn what the day represents and to read the 2026 National Prayer together. Our chaplain then invited volunteers to lead prayers for the "seven centers of influence" in our nation—family, church, education, business, military, government, and media. Over half of the teens raised their hands, willing to step forward and pray out loud for others.

May Your Kingdom come, and Your will be done... as it is in heaven."
2026 National Day of Prayer

Out at the flagpole, those prayers became personal. Teens prayed for families, for schools, for leaders, and for the church to bring unity, integrity, and a renewed commitment to Christ. As part of the national prayer, they joined in asking God to "heal our lives and our land," connecting their voices to something bigger than themselves.

It wasn't fancy or complicated—just teens learning to speak faith out loud. This is part of how faith grows at Project Patch: not just hearing about faith, but practicing it—and making it their own.

To learn more about the National Day of Prayer, visit:
www.nationaldayofprayer.org



HOW TO MAKE YOUR GIFT GROW

It costs over \$100 to fill up our minivan with gas, and each time I fill up, I'm reminded of 1987, when I only paid 88¢ per gallon. When Project Patch started in 1984, a first-class stamp was 20¢, and a sundae at Dairy Queen was 75¢.

Times have changed, and money doesn't stretch as far as it used to. We've experienced that at Project Patch as our costs rise each year. Our highest expenses are wages, insurance, utilities, and food. It feels like each year we pay more and get less.

I was explaining to a longtime supporter the other day that our donations have remained steady over the past several years, but the amount we can purchase has declined. A \$50 donation in 1984 would be equivalent to a gift of \$160 today. I praise God for every donation, but have been pained to see incomes rise while donation amounts remain steady. Just like you, we work hard to stretch every dollar and are finding it harder and harder to make ends meet.

The supporter listened kindly to my lament and then asked me: "Would people like an opportunity to make their money, and its impact, grow rather than shrink?" He proposed creating a double match.

His family would pledge up to \$20,000, with the challenge to find other donors willing to match not only the amount but also the gift's purpose.

Thanks to the generosity of several donors, the first challenge has been met. We now have \$40,000 ready for you to match. This means that donors who give toward the match have their gift matched twice!

This match is specifically focused on monthly recurring donations. To qualify for the match, a donor must either become a monthly donor or increase their monthly donation.

1. New Monthly Donors – Your gift is annualized and then matched twice. If you pledge to give a \$10 monthly recurring gift, your total annual gift will be \$120 (you) + \$120 (Match 1) + \$120 (Match 2) = \$360 to help struggling teens.
2. Increased Monthly Donation – The amount you increase your recurring gift will be annualized, then matched twice. For example, if you give \$50 per month and increase your gift to \$75, the \$25 increase will count toward the match. The impact of your gift will be \$1,500 total: \$900 (you) + \$300 (Match 1) + \$300 (Match 2).

Recurring monthly gifts enable us to say Yes to more teens and families. Knowing we have predictable monthly donations reduces uncertainty and allows us to better plan.

This is a unique chance to make a big difference and increase the impact of every dollar you give. In a world where dollars buy less and less, you have a chance to turn \$1 into \$3 or \$100 into \$300. Best of all, your gift is the ultimate investment in the lives of teens who desperately need help.

Start making your triple impact now:

 www.projectpatch.org/match  (360)690-8495  kwallingford@projectpatch.org



AN ANSWERED PRAYER

This van is more than transportation—it's a reminder of how God provides through His people. A generous donor stepped up to meet one of our biggest wish list needs, and we are so thankful. What a blessing for our teens, staff, and ministry.

Ask and it will be given to you. –Matthew 7:7



GIVING DAY 2026 RECAP



Thank you to the 21 donors who supported our 24-hour Giving Day! Together, you helped raise \$3,685—plus a \$500 prize—to support dorm activities that bring connection, joy, and healing to our teens. From everyday fun to big memory moments, your generosity makes a real difference.



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.

- 6-Pack Handheld Radios** - \$100
- 12 Life Jackets - \$50 each
- 2 Canopy Tents** - \$70 each
- 6 Rafting Trip (3/dorm) - \$500 each
- 2 Rock Climbing Trip (1/dorm) - \$750 each
- Camping Supplies** - \$150
- Baseball Equipment - \$525
- Art Supplies** - \$150
- Sensory Items** - \$160
- 2 Kick Scooters** - \$90 each
- Fishing Lures** - \$30
- 10 Bike Water Bottles** - \$18 each
- Chapel Music Rights - \$150
- 12-Foot Ladder - \$350
- 15 Rakes - \$30 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

The heart of our mission is to “Restore Hope to Teens.” Hopelessness makes teens give up, focus on pleasure over progress, and become stuck in dangerous habits and relationships. Teens aren’t the only ones affected by hopelessness. We see parents, families, pastors, teachers, and entire communities losing hope, especially when it comes to teens with challenging behaviors.

A defining verse for Project Patch is John 10:10, in which Jesus 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.” It’s not hard to see the losses our teens have experienced. They’ve lived with violation, rejection, trauma, and broken hearts. They see clearly that this world is filled with brokenness. Yet, they don’t see that there could be anything more, especially something full or abundant.

This issue of PatchWorks focuses on some of the ways that we share the Hope of Jesus with our teens. We work hard to let them know that Jesus is for them and is working to restore them to wholeness.

*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;
I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.
John 10:10*

If you read a few more verses, you come across another description of what Jesus is doing when He said, “The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep” (John 10:11). This is contrasted to the hired hands who, “when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away” (John 10:12). Jesus stays when things get tough. Hired hands run away.

We seek to be like Jesus, who calls us to sacrifice for our teens and not to run away when things get challenging. We are by no means perfect at this, but our goal is to give our teens a glimpse of God’s love for them and a taste of the sacrificial love of Jesus. In fact, a key part of Jesus’ message is that we aren’t hired hands, we are children of God.

You have a choice of whether to sacrificially love or to lose hope. Will you help or run when things get tough? Your financial support, prayers, and sharing about Patch show that you are part of this amazing mission that God has given us to bring Hope to Teens.



JOIN US



JOIN US IN PRAYER:

Prayer is an important part of daily life at Project Patch. Join our prayer team and pray alongside us each month for our teens, staff, families, and supporters.

Sign up at: www.projectpatch.org/prayerteam

JOIN OUR TEAM:

Want to make a difference in the lives of teens and enjoy the outdoors? Project Patch may be the place for you! Open Positions: Therapist and Dorm Direct Care Staff.

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



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.