

IN BRIEF

NEW ADDRESS

The time for forwarding mail to our new address has expired. Please mail to 2404-A East Mill Plain Blvd., Vancouver, WA 98661. Old envelopes can be used only if the address is changed by hand or with a label. Thank you!

COMMUNITY

SERVICE PROJECTS

Giving back to others is an integral part of PATCH. Staff researches local needs where the kids can help. One project helped a family with firewood. Here is the response: *"Thank you for the hard work the girls put in today to get our firewood moved. If my husband and I had to do it by ourselves, it would not have gotten done before the big snowfalls. Please let the girls know that we really appreciate their hard work. We wish the best for all of them. We will keep all of the girls and Project PATCH in our prayers."*

PLAN AHEAD FOR SUMMER EVENTS

Come join our fun!
 Golfers: **THE MATCH FOR PATCH GOLF TOURNAMENT on June 21.**
 Runners, Cyclists, Walkers: **THE FREEDOM RUN ON JULY 4.** Watch for more information about these events.

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winter 2007

PATCH works!

Building skills & relationships



Winter at PATCH means short, cold days and long, dark nights. But this winter the kids were able to find respite in the warmth of our new wood shop, where they built various items for their dorms with their own hands...with a little guidance of course. Mike Van Dyk and Corry Current designed shelves to hold televisions and stereo equipment, and even designed a desk for the new dorm computers. Kids from each dorm worked

with Corry and also Dave Holladay to build and install the units in the dorms. Working in the shop provides time to learn new skills, as well as time to build relationships. Upcoming projects include shelving for the school, tables for fly tying, and a pinewood derby track and cars.



Enjoying CHRISTMAS at Project PATCH



Although I was not home for Christmas this year, I feel as if I was with my family. The dorm was filled with the scent of pine and freshly baked goods. The halls were lined with Christmas décor, the windows with poinsettias, and the dorm was filled with music. Activities included snow shoeing, making gingerbread houses, building snowmen, getting the tree, movies, and simply enjoying each others' company. Still, something separated this Christmas from others. There was no anxiety to open the gifts. It wasn't about that. It was about celebrating the life of the One who gives us eternal life, and giving just like Christ did for us. This year, there were no strings attached. Being in an environment like this made it easy to appreciate each other and impossible to take things for granted. I was not at my house this Christmas, but maybe I really was at home. *— By Kelsey*

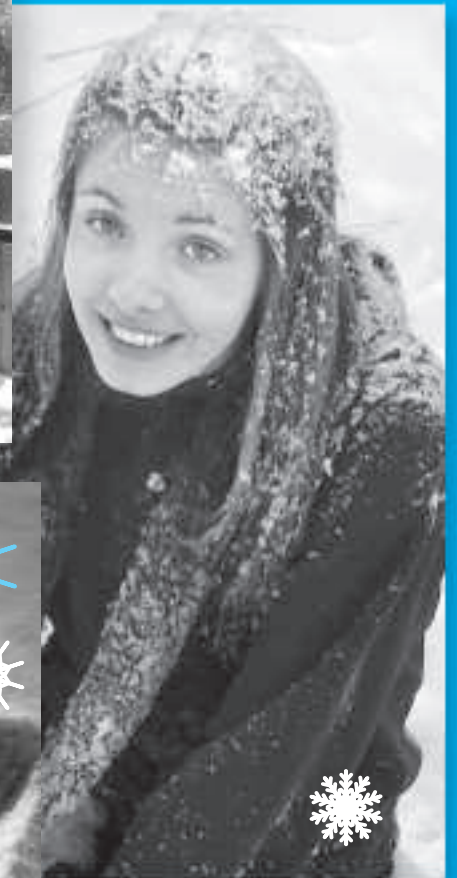


A big THANK YOU to the two donors who provided Christmas gifts for the kids!

Never Enough

a poem by Kelsy

What do you have?
 Is it enough to satisfy?
 Or do you need more
 To get you by?
 Would you walk in the shoes
 Of someone who has less?
 And would you be willing
 To live through their mess?
 What do you want?
 Must you have it to succeed?
 Would you give it away
 For someone in need?
 Do you hold on to something
 That someone else admires?
 Do you flaunt it for show
 Or use it to inspire?
 Do you smile at the different?
 Or laugh at the hurt?
 Can you empathize?
 Or do you treat them like dirt?
 Are material possessions
 Running our lives?
 Are we too caught up
 In appearance and size?
 Is that all we have?
 It isn't much
 Is that all we have?
Never enough?
 Life is so fragile
 So easily affected
 So live, laugh, love, learn,
 And expect the unexpected.



Wilderness Experiences

There is something magnetic about being out in the woods. Millions of people head to the mountains every weekend, many just getting away from the "rat race." However, if it's not your idea to go to the woods, the experience usually begins with a lot of anger. After working at Project PATCH for the last eleven plus years, I've witnessed that anger and many miraculous transformations in young men during their wilderness experiences. After the walls come down, these young men start to see the Creator in a way that they never could have imagined. Being in the mountains is probably one of the top therapeutic tools that we can use, which is why PATCH incorporates it into the program. It can be very satisfying and character building to spend a few winter days cooking your food over a fire and sleeping in a structure that you built. I ask the boys what kind of spiritual experience they had, if any, during their stay at the wilderness site, some of their responses are printed at right.

Being out in nature removes many of the day-to-day temptations and distractions, helping us to focus on important issues, evidenced by the comments at right. Not all had life changing experiences, but all were given a time and place to better hear from the God who loves them and wants to spend an eternity with them.

People like you make it possible to give young people a chance, maybe their only chance, to come into close communion with their creator. A time, a place, and an open heart...is all that He needs. – Mike Van Dyk, Boys Director

BOY'S WILDERNESS COMMENTS

Turned my life to God. Made me whole again.

I got close to Jesus and felt I had a real friend, but it all left when I left his nature.



His Sacrifice, my choice.



I didn't have much of an experience out back. I was more concerned about the future and what's going to happen when I go home.

My spiritual experience at wilderness was good. Grew closer to God and dedicated my life. Learned to trust and love him back.

I could finally feel and have God, instead of just at the mental level. He spoke and touched my heart in a way that brought me the peace I was looking for.

It was amazing, changing, glorifying and beautiful.

I didn't really get any closer out there with Him, but while I was out there He answered one of my big prayers on how to drop most of my anger. I did notice that I spent more time in personal prayer than in the dorm though. I found out that he was there, and that He did answer prayers. I also found out that when you spend more time with Him you are happier.

Today I have been thankful for a lot of things like I was thankful when the snow was falling, for the four person shelter, and thankful for food. I have been feeling a little closer but not a lot, but I have been feeling a little closer.

I know that I pray to God every night and I've thought about Him quite a bit out here. One thing that really sticks out right now is that if it wasn't for Him I'd probably be dead by now. I don't know if that's a spiritual experience or not but it has gotten me thinking about being a better Christian. I've always wanted to be a better person and with God's help I know I could reach that.

Hoop Dreams & Inspiration

Athleticism has always been encouraged at Project PATCH. The kids especially like basketball, which they play in our excellent gymnasium. Both girls and boys enjoy the teamwork and energy that go into a good basketball game. Experienced staff teach the basics of the game with drills, exercises and, of course, games.

But there's nothing like seeing the professionals play to arouse excitement for the game. That's why, on January 13th, the kids piled into the van and we drove them to Boise to watch the Idaho Stampede, an NBA development league team, in action. The challengers, the Sioux Falls, ND, Sky Force team put up a good fight but were eventually trampled by the Stampede, with a final score of 37 to 31.

"This was so cool, I've never seen the pros play before!" said one of the boys who made the trip.

"It inspired me to see No. 12 make so many great shots even though he's a small player. I'm kinda short, too, and it makes me believe I can still try harder and be a good player," said another.

After the game, the kids lined up to meet the players. The super-sized athletes graciously signed tickets, water bottles, and even t-shirts for the thrilled boys and girls. It was good to see kids interacting with star athletes who were friendly and down to earth.

The young people and staff are thankful to Ryan Williams, Director of Media and Public Relations, who arranged free tickets for this event. Ryan also arranged a PATCH fundraiser with ticket sales from their game on March 3rd. You can go online to www.nba.com/media/dleagueidaho/Project_Patch_Night.pdf and download a form to purchase tickets, a portion of which will be donated to Project PATCH.



Not just a work camp

Early one Sunday morning back in October, four PATCH staff and six of our young men from the Ranch, made an eight-hour drive to Goldendale Washington, future site of PATCH's family camp. We quickly assembled our tent camp, and Gary, camp host and on-site manager, set up an awesome cook shack, necessary because young people usually pack a hearty appetite.

Our days began at dawn and after chow and a short worship it was off to work. We were joined by Don, another PATCH employee, with five chain saws running and six boys stacking limbs and brush, we accomplished a great deal. Knocking off by 3:30, early because the boys grew weary, we paced ourselves so they would have a good experience, not just a week at a work camp.

We accomplished a lot in a short time at Goldendale, but God gets the credit for really making the trip worthwhile. Being there in His creation we felt His presence. At evening worships around the campfire we

reflected with awe, on the God who had created this beauty. Our talks turned to Christ, the sacrifice He made, and His promised second coming. It was wonderful to see these young mens' interest in the Lord, and especially, to witness two boys making the decision to give their hearts to Him. One of these boys, who confided that he had never really given God a "fair shake," said he felt more at peace now than at any other time in his life.

We don't know what one thing made them take this step, they were exposed to Christianity before. However, we do know that one of the things leading one of the young men to that kind of peace is the example set by each member of the Project PATCH staff. Hearing stories by the staff of what Christ has done for them and continues to do, he said he wanted that too.

Moments like this help us realize just how important it is that we "walk" our "talk," and model what life can be like when you let God go to work. Please continue to pray for these young men as they walk with the Lord.





Supporter Thank-You

On **Supporter Thank-You Day** last October, many of our generous donors and volunteers visited the Project PATCH Ranch. For some of the visitors, it was the first time they were able to see the young people in whose lives they have been investing from a distance.

"It was nice to be shown around and see what it's all about. What a great local program for helping kids. I was impressed at how open the kids were about the issues that brought them to PATCH - they seemed happy to be in the program! It was amazing that the kids had the courage to get up in front and share their stories," said volunteer Gary LaFay.

Project PATCH staff members led guided tours of the Ranch to let the guests observe first hand what life here is like. When the tours were finished, the staff members were joined by residents, who had a chance to share, from their hearts, some of their experiences in the program. There were songs, stories, and even a slide show; after which the visitors sat down to a lovely dinner with the teens, where they could relax and get to know each other as individuals.

As the day drew to a close, we were blessed to have Blue Cross of Idaho Foundation's Karri Ryan present our kids with an \$8,000 dollar check to start the work on our much needed gym flooring project.

Each person who visited received a framed photograph of themselves with some of the teens as a memento of this wonderful day. We know it will be a special reminder of the lives they touch through their indispensable support.

IN BRIEF CONTINUED

GREETINGS TO TOM FROM A FORMER RESIDENT

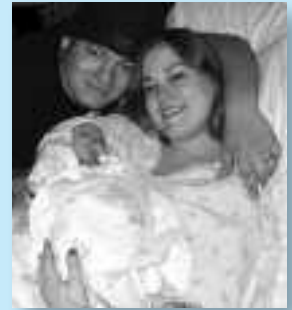
I say again, thanks for changing my life. After reading Wounded Healer, I felt both happy and sad: Happy that I was saved from having to go through that kind of life, but sad that you did. May God continue to bless and support your work in Garden Valley and beyond, and may lives continue to be changed.

PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU WISH AN ANNUAL STATEMENT FOR 2006 DONATIONS.

A Mom's Thanks

I thought of the girls (and boys), at PATCH when reading a devotional about a girl who was lost in a crowd of runaway teens who were looking for unconditional love. There are so many lost youth out there, and my heart goes out to them. I will be eternally grateful for the help you gave our daughter Brittany, who was one of the "lost." You helped return her to us.

I just got back *late* last night from Portland, having experienced the joy of becoming a *grandma!* Brittany gave birth to a *perfect* and beautiful baby boy, Colby Michael Reed. Brittany is a joy to be with, and she wouldn't



have been this way if there hadn't been a Project PATCH to help us get through that dark stage of her teen life. Today she is mature, articulate, thoughtful, and sensitive to the needs of others. She is a wonderful and caring wife, and now a mother to a tiny, beautiful baby boy. It was such a joy to experience this time with her and her husband, Eric.

I give thanks to *all* of you continually for bringing her back to us!

Love and Blessings to you all...
Bonnie Crawford



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PATCH works! is published three times a year by Project PATCH for alumni, board members, parents, staff, and philanthropic supporters...

Comments are welcomed please contact 360-690-8495 or patch@projectpatch.org

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PATCH works! BOUQUETS

Thank you for the Newsletter. I read it all. Truly God is blessing your work. It's wonderful to know all about kids' changing their lives. - a California donor

Thank you for sending us your information on Project PATCH. God bless you. What a wonderful program. Our children are so in need of God-driven programs and there are too few. Praise God for Project PATCH. Here is a donation. I wish I could do more, but I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers. Call me if there is anything else I can do to support your program. - an Idaho donor

When I was about to enclose the \$100 check, I stopped and re-read your enclosed letter about Jesse. So then I was so impressed about the "transforming ministry" you do, I made out the 2nd check of \$400 to total \$500. God bless you! - a California donor

May God multiply your funds and your efforts to bless others with hope and care and the knowledge of the goodness of God. - a Texas donor

Your reports are always exciting...may God richly bless you for the wonderful things you are doing for those young people. - an Idaho donor

PROJECT PATCH WISH LIST

- VACUUMS (COMMERCIAL) (3) EA\$150
- SNOW BOOTS\$45
- SNOW SHOVELS (METAL GRAIN SHOVELS)\$25
- PANS (COMMERCIAL) EA\$25
- VOLLEYBALLS AND SOCCER BALLS, EA\$30
- REVERSIBLE JERSEYS FOR PE CLASS (24) EA\$15
- ROCK CLIMBING SHOES\$45
- WOOD SPLITTER\$1500
- NETS FOR HOCKEY AND SOCCER GOALS\$75
- LIFE JACKETS, EA\$60
- LARGE WOOD STOVE FOR CORE BUILDING\$1400
- SNOW SHOES, EA\$100
- AIR SCRUBBER FOR WOOD SHOP\$400
- BOX CLAMPS FOR WOOD SHOP\$35
- DEEP FRYER\$200
- UNIVERSAL LIDS EA\$12
- FOOD CART\$200
- THREE-JAW PULLER (3) EA.\$100 - 150
- CHAIN SAW CHAIN (BULK)\$200
- CHAIN FILES (ROUND & FLAT)\$20
- AIR GREASE GUN\$200
- VEHICLES IN GOOD WORKING CONDITION
- FLY-FISHING EQUIPMENT, rods, waders, fly tying tools and materials
- GARDENING TOOLS

Thanks to those who gave items from our previous Wish List!