

Hope and a Sense Of Confidence

Interview, story, and photos by Frank Lozano

“When I came to PATCH, I really didn’t believe that God was there to help me. Now, I can see that He really IS here to help me.”

Those were the words of Isaac, at the beginning of this interview, regarding his state of mind when he first came to the youth ranch.

“I would blow up, and just cry, and shut down. I still struggle; but, when I do, I am able to cope with it, for the most part, and practice some of the skills I have learned to control my meltdowns.”

Isaac has grown both physically and mentally since he first got here. He now sees hope and he has confidence to play sports with his peers, and be part of them. His smile and giggling is contagious. Put that together with his red hair and freckles, and he will brighten anybody’s day! He is quick to volunteer to pray, and loves to talk.

When asked what he wants to be when he grows up, thirteen-year-old Isaac said he wants to: paint artwork on cars, be a roofer, and a pastor. He declared he could paint two days, do roofing two days, and preach at least one day a week!

Leadership is one of the qualities he shows when entrusted with a serious task; whether it is helping with cooking or quizzing a newcomer on his resident’s manual to help him pass his orientation test. The giggly Isaac goes from 13 to 17 in sixty-seconds, and shifts into full gear in all seriousness. On a recent occasion, he asked me to have a one-on-one session. As he talked about his struggle, he used a lot of the words that I’ve used with him while mentoring him. For a moment, I thought he was using them to impress me. As



▲ Isaac and Griffen making “gourmet” pizzas.”

he continued talking, however, not only did I realize how much he was struggling, but also how smart he is.

“Right now, I’m struggling to get to Level 2 [PATCH works on a levels program]; but I know there is not much to it. I’m just thankful to be at a place where I can get help. So, hopefully, I will make it to Level 2 soon! Next will be Level 3. And then, I’m looking forward to going home, and to being a good big brother to my little brothers!”

“PATCH, God, and my parents are helping me. The program is really helping me to control my anger.”

Isaac explained that just as God and the program are helping him, so are his parents. Parental involvement and participation is crucial for the success of the program. As Isaac was talking about these issues, he was very serious and mature. As soon as the interview was over, he had that contagious smile on his face, for which there is no vaccination!

Cares & Prayers

Our daughter was accepted into PATCH [recently]. Though we are at the beginning of this process, we are hopeful and excited to see all the amazing things God has in store. The sponsor(s) that paid a generous portion of our daughter’s tuition was an answer to prayers! Many thanks for investing in her future and being part of healing our family. – C.A.

God bless you & the youth. –V.B.

This summer our family had the privilege of holding our annual reunion at the Family Center in Goldendale, WA. It was FANTASTIC! While there, we also learned about the: 3-day Family Experience, in which families gain tools and grow together; and PATCH seminars on parenting and grandparenting, held across the nation. We keep all of you at Project PATCH in our hearts, and especially in our prayers, daily! – E.F.

Please pray for a young man that I mentored and tutored for a year, following his graduation from PATCH. Ask God to continue to guide and bless him. – K.T.

To share your PATCH experiences and offer encouragement and support to our staff, email info@projectpatch.org, or write to us at 2404 E Mill Plain Blvd., Suite A, Vancouver, WA 98661.

Impacting Youth in a Complex World

by Chuck Hagele



▲ Our presenters can modify our seminar to meet your local community's needs, with an emphasis on Parenting, Mentoring, Grand-parenting (Parenting Again), or Technology.

Parents and grand parents are afraid. They see kids they love making dangerous choices, and wish they had the influence or skills to help. Many are so overwhelmed by the behaviors of the kids they've given up, and are just praying the kids will make it through this phase and safely to adulthood.

Others are so fearful they use every opportunity to lecture and advise kids, and then wonder why the kids are avoiding them.

There is good news. Parents and grandparents still matter and play a crucial role in helping kids become great adults: able to be respectful and responsible, and to make good decisions about risk.

Project Patch has been teaching seminars across the country focused on Impacting Teens in a Hostile World. Ideally, these seminars are taught during eight hours of class and discussion time. We also teach sections of the seminars for churches that aren't able to schedule a longer seminar.

Two seminars from this year stand out, because the audiences were very different. One seminar took place in Queens, New York, at a Haitian Church. Most of its members spoke English, but the services were in Creole. Another seminar took place in the rural town of Emmett, Idaho. The people at each seminar had vastly different life experience and looked very different; yet, in both cases, they were feeling the same fear, overwhelmed, and not sure how to help. Both audiences displayed a humility and eagerness to learn that left me inspired and encouraged.

Our seminars primarily teach three things. First is a plan and strategy in raising our kids. Second, is to develop a strong relationship with our kids, which requires good communication. Finally, we need to know our values and boundaries, and be able to use consequences, when necessary, to protect and train our kids. The seminar concludes with a "lab" on technology, where we explore how to apply the things we learned to the specific challenges of: pornography, gaming, and social media.

One recent attendee wrote, "I need to look for teachable moments, and then listen." This is great, because most of us use teachable moments to lecture, rather than take the time to listen, ask questions if necessary, and help the child grow.

Another parent recently wrote: *"I attended the 'Impacting a Teen' seminar in Auburn this June. I was looking for information on how to connect better with my 13-year-old son, and found a river of information and support. I was feeling lost, and now I feel like I've got a direction to travel with him, and some better ideas about how I can build our relationship and support this unique gift that God has blessed my life with!"*

We are thrilled with the impact the seminars are making and look forward to serving more communities. If you are interested in hosting a seminar in your church, school, or local community, please call our office at 360-690-8495, or go to our website at www.projectpatch.org/seminars, and we will team together to impact your community, to make it a place where kids and families flourish.



▲ Parents and grandparents alike gain valuable knowledge, insights, and tools they can use.

"[I] found a river of information and support."

Stuck Behind a Wall — Sarah's Story

By Sarah Stephen

Sarah arrived at Project PATCH about six months ago. Previously, she had been in and out of treatment. She is finding successful treatment and making academic progress at PATCH. This is her story.



▲ Sarah enjoying 'outdoor school' by the pond, with her class and instructor.

Before I came to PATCH, I had been in and out of rehab for a year. Nothing had really worked. I'd go to treatment, think I had everything figured out, and be dismissed -- only to relapse the very next day. I was sad and ashamed of the life I was living, but didn't know how to let go of that life.

School?! That was another place where I was not working up to my potential. High school was where my bad choices with alcohol and drugs reduced my success to non-existence. At one time, I was so far behind, I thought seriously about giving up school altogether.

The relationship with my mom was very tense. I was extremely manipulative of her and my stepdad, so that I could continue my unhealthy lifestyle. At some point, I had completely shut my dad out of my life, to avoid the guilt that would prevail if he saw what a mess I was. I had no hope for a life outside of feeling like a failure, and was unhappy with who I was on the inside.

Repetitive negative behaviors led my mom to send me to treatment, yet again. She had noticed my out-of-control, downward spiral. I was sent back to a treatment facility that I had already attended. The therapist at that facility gave me an ultimatum: shape up, or be sent somewhere else. I chose to be stubborn, and the therapist sent me to PATCH.

I arrived at PATCH with an attitude, and a wall built so thick that I was stuck behind it. I was alone in my struggles, unable to break even a small hole in the wall by myself. But PATCH could, and did. I have realized I can be happy, and find pleasure in the world without having to be high. Letting myself learn to experience emotion, as well as showing others how I truly feel, has

been made possible by the staff at PATCH teaching me skills to succeed, and never, ever giving up on me. I have also learned not to care what people think of me, when I know I have made the right decision for myself.

In school, I have learned to write well. Not penmanship, but to really get my thoughts down on paper in a way others can make sense of my writing, and know exactly what I mean. Individual educational plans made it possible for me to recover credits and explore areas of study I never knew existed. In math, I have built confidence that math is just a puzzle to be solved. PATCH supplied the missing pieces of math education that I had passed over. Now I can even help others fill in their learning gaps.

In the future I would like to graduate from PATCH with a Project PATCH high school diploma, and go straight to college. I want to study to be a therapist who specializes in art therapy. I intend to stay involved with a church, for I know people there can support me in my weak times. I want to find opportunities to share my story with kids who are in treatment facilities, and are going through what I went through -- and feeling what I felt.

I am really proud of the new desire and goals I have for my life. These could only have been achieved through God. Rediscovering His plan for me and being reminded of my potential have driven me to want better expectations for myself. That same faith makes it easier to put aside all the low expectations others already had for me, based on my past.

The skills I have learned at PATCH will be with me for life -- A life made better by God working through PATCH.

Tools of the Trade: Tips for Successful Parenting

by Jim Smith, Family Counselor

When a child feels listened to and understood, the change in attitude and level of cooperation is often dramatic. After attending one of our Family Experiences, a young lady was so appreciative that she made a video to thank us for what she had learned. One of the points she made was, "I felt understood." This young lady was from a good family, with loving parents committed to being even better. Temperament differences had created some obstacles to good communication within the family; and this child was feeling misunderstood, with accompanying attitude and behavioral responses. Finding out what her temperament was, and how it differed from others in the family, was a revelation for her; and it gave her the tools she needed to express herself in a more functional way.

During one of our group-builders, a problem arose which brought out the differences and obstacles, only this time she used new skills and was listened to by everyone. The outcome was a peaceful solution instead of an outburst.

Once a child feels truly listened to and understood, it is much easier for them to live with not getting their way, or at least adjusting to others ideas and demands. Taking the time to look beyond the immediate behavior, and probe for the reasons that might be lurking among the shadows of misperceptions, is very worthwhile. Setting other things aside and giving our child undivided attention, so their perception is they are being listened to and effort is being made to understand how they are feeling, will go a long way toward bringing about more pleasing attitudes and behaviors.

Listening...it takes time and effort, but the outcome is worth it.

For more helpful articles on successful parenting and relationships, go to: <http://blog.projectpatch.org/>.

Heavenly Hilton

by Linda Hill

Between our Family Experience Weekends, which are scheduled twice a month, we open our doors for private bookings, such as family reunions, church retreats, women's retreats, men's retreats, business conference retreats, and more. These groups make significant memories, including some that have had a couple of special baptisms in our own Blockhouse Creek that were memorable experiences.

"Home with Heroes," a non-profit organization in Vancouver, WA, which helps veterans in a variety of ways, sponsors a weekend get-away for veterans. Their organization used our facility last October to give veterans a once-in-a-lifetime VIP experience. So this is a special highlight for them, and they are booking every year.

This year, we had 35 veterans and 40 volunteers came to the Project Patch Family Life & Conference Center, just west of Goldendale, WA. Some of the veterans arrived from as far away as Bellingham, WA, and others came from Portland, OR, and Vancouver, WA. They left Vancouver with 16 trucks and vans! When they drove through the little town of Klickitat, WA, they saw troops of Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts honoring them with a parade, and met a 92-year-old WWII veteran.

It brought tears to my eyes when I saw the motorcade driving in to our

property, with flags on the outside of each truck and van full of veterans. Their expressions of excitement and eagerness to be here were overwhelming. Many veterans came and shared with me how thankful they were to be able to stay at our facility. One of the veterans said, "This is like Heaven! I am going to rename this place 'the Heavenly Hilton!'"

It was amazing to see the transformation of these men, from when they arrived to when they got ready to leave. What a difference! After being here in God's nature, how much more calm and happy they were. They expressed their joy regarding how they

were treated, and about the good food they ate, and the beautiful setting of our facility and grounds.

It was wonderful to honor these men and women who have served our country in the military. We must never forget the sacrifice they have made to represent the USA, and the hardships many have experienced in the war zones of Vietnam, Iraq, or Afghanistan.

Our proposal to *"Home with Heroes"* for next year's event is to have our counselor assist with some counseling for the veterans, using our ropes course and other tools that we use with our Family Experience program.



▲ Veterans and volunteers savor one of their meals in the lodge.



▲ A veteran enjoys time relaxing on the patio.

Hosting Tip: "Frozen Assets"

by Linda Hill

I find that it is very helpful to have some special baked goods prepared and in the freezer for your unexpected guests, or when you find someone in need. It is easier for you to just take the treats out of the freezer! Now is a good time to start baking some of your favorite cookies, cakes, or a pie.



Danish Holiday Biscuits

This is an old Hill Family tradition for the holidays. It is not difficult to make, but it takes time to prepare. It is best to do this with the whole family; because it is more fun with everyone involved, and you will get it done faster.

Step 1:		Step 2:		Step 3:	
2 cups	syrup	6 teaspoons	cloves	5 lbs.	flour
2 cups	sugar	2 teaspoons	soda	2 cups	buttermilk
½ cup	butter	1 teaspoons	salt		

Mix all of the ingredients of Step 1, in a large mixer, until creamy. Add Step 2 seasonings. In Step 3, alternate the 5 lbs. of flour with the buttermilk. It will take all 5 lbs. of flour, so make sure you have a strong, even mixer, or do it by hand. The dough needs to be on the tough side.

After it's all mixed together, break off small rolls of dough. Roll out by hand, into a long snake-like shape. Then cut, with a butter knife, about ¼-inch-thick pieces, like small little balls. Place the cut pieces on a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper, and bake.

Bake at 350 degrees for 10-15 minutes.
Yields: 300 small biscuits

New Partnership

Project PATCH is pleased to announce a new option, or partnership way, of giving a legacy gift or gifts.

We have connected with Western Adventist Foundation (WAF), a non-denominational organization committed to helping people and organizations benefit God's work through clearly defined giving plans and trust management services. Offering:

- Financial management services
- Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA)
- And much more

If you have any questions you may contact Project PATCH at 360-690-8495; or Western Adventist Foundation at 866-356-5595.

Piecing It Together

by Chuck Hagele, Executive Director



I still remember Steven as he sobbed, "I'm not supposed to be here. You made a mistake." Tears rolled down his face and his nose ran as he pleaded to go home. His parents continued to make one of the hardest decisions they'd ever had to make, and left later that afternoon -- without Steven.

It isn't easy to be confronted by the reality of our choices. It isn't easy for either the kids or their parents. Yet, at some time during the time at our Youth Ranch, or while participating in the Family Experience, most parents and kids come to the conclusion: "This is exactly where I need to be, to become safe."

I drove through a rural part of Idaho and was surprised to see farmers working in their fields in the dark. They were bringing in the harvest, because they knew that if they waited, the crop would be destroyed by an impending storm.

This fall, I've experienced the same drive of the farmer as I've worked with my team to protect this generation of kids and parents. We've been

busy; and yet, for us, the analogy of the harvest kind of falls apart, because our kids and, yes, some parents, are stuck in the "I'm not supposed to be here" mentality. Yet, with time, growth, and perspective, they too will come to acceptance, and then gratitude.

Would you join us in bringing in the crops? There are families and kids that are in your areas of influence that need help. They may not know it, or want it, but they still need it. It won't be comfortable for you to get involved, but lives and futures are at stake.

As you read the pages of this newsletter, I ask that you not just read and get inspired, but that you will act on what you learn. Refer people to our services, host a parenting seminar, and introduce us to your friends who would love to support an effective ministry to kids and families. Don't just read, react.

Thanks for your continued prayers and support. I look forward to seeing you in the field.

Wish List

Below is the current wish list for Project Patch. If you are interested in helping us fulfill these needs, please call us at 360-690-8495, or email info@projectpatch.org.

Youth Ranch

- Hose splitters — \$20
- Metal measuring cups for kitchen — \$40
- Wasp spray (10) — \$50
- Open & Box-end Standard & Metric wrenches — \$50
- Drill Doctor (1) — \$60
- Mechanic socket tool set — \$90
- Commercial pots/pans — \$100
- Work gloves (20) — \$140
- Comm Radios for Dorms — \$180
- Cordless hammer-drill with bits — \$180
- Hoses (4) — \$200
- Counseling resources (books, etc.) — \$200
- Push mowers (4) — \$640
- New carpet for office — \$2,500

Family Center

- Rock polishing supplies — \$50
- Staircase railing — \$200
- Light-weight folding tables (6-8) — \$240
- Frisbee golf sets (10) — \$250
- BBQ (propane) — \$600
- Folding chairs (11-24) — \$750
- Slide for playground — \$1,000
- Deck furniture (table w/ chairs) — \$1,200
- Greenhouse (used) — \$2,000
- Wi-Fi enabled commercial copy machine/printer (1) — \$2,500
- Gravel for roads — \$3,500

What can be accomplished in just one weekend?

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child to our Youth Ranch. As a newly single parent, there were difficulties with their two teens, even with family therapy. While they had addressed their circumstances and feelings in sessions with their therapist, they found that having so much consistent time to focus on their family, with the guidance of a professional, enabled them to progress at a much quicker rate. The son was able to acknowledge his anger. Through some of the activities he was able to find a new understanding of – and empathy for – his mother. This breakthrough propelled them into the process of forgiveness, and opened up the lines of communication in the family again. All of this resulted in the child not needing to attend the Youth Ranch. It was a big step forward in the healing of the family.

Healing looks different for each family. The beautiful setting, comfortable hotel-style rooms, and homemade meals prepared by a professional chef create a relaxing and safe environment for families to explore the dynamics in their relationships, and to process life circumstances. Some families come to us with strong parenting, coaching skills themselves, and with the acknowledgment that they need an outside perspective to help their family move forward. A large family that joined us recently had close bonds with each other and strong foundational skills, but several difficult life circumstances had begun to wear on the family. Taking time out to relax with each other, and intentionally address where the family was at, helped them to process the grief they were all feeling over the loss of an important family member and other big life changes. By addressing the grief that was at the core of the conflict in the home, they were able to build upon their foundation, and walk away more resilient.

No matter what the circumstances of a family, all members benefit from the time spent practicing the new skills they are learning with the feedback and support of our staff. One method used during the weekend is time on the low ropes course. These activities are intentionally created by our facilitators to provide the families with situations similar to what they may face at home. This time provides the family with opportunities to work through challenges, utilizing the tools

they have learned. It also gives them and the staff insight into the family dynamics. The insights are valuable to the family and staff in planning how to integrate what they've learned into their lives once they return home.

One of the families this year was able to acknowledge that the circumstances in their home were much more severe than they had allowed themselves to admit. They were able to find the strength to come up with a plan which included sending one of their children to the Youth Ranch, and getting an older child additional help. The family was encouraged by the staff's ability to respond to their vulnerability without judgment. By following up on the bold plans they created with the staff, their family has shifted course, and has made great strides towards multi-generational healing and a happy, healthier family.

The outcome of each Family Experience Weekend is as different as the families that participate. One family that attended this year helped us to expand our understanding of the types of families that we can serve. This family came to us with three children ranging in ages from three to ten. This family had a strong foundation and was aware that their communication skills were breaking down with each other, and with their children. They spent most of the weekend focused on learning about each family member's personal strengths, and how to work together and affirm those strengths. Their oldest child walked away from the program feeling heard and understood, in a way not experienced for a long time. The whole family had a plan for how to support one another when they got home.

Over the last few years, each family that has participated in the Family Experience Weekend has had an opportunity to connect in an intentional way, gaining new insight into their relationships and themselves. This guides them on a path of healing as they learn how to support one another, and as they all face life's challenges -- together.

As staff, we have watched in amazement and with gratitude to be able to participate in what God is accomplishing.

What can be achieved in just one weekend? More than we could have imagined!



▲ After some hard work shoveling snow, the boys discover another fun use for the shovels!



▲ Dawn breaks over the river.
Photo by Francisco Lozano



▲ Frosty pays an early visit to the ranch.



▲ The boys are making hay while the sun shines.



▲ Residents and staff enjoy a holiday meal together.

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▲ **“When I came to PATCH, I really didn't believe that God was there to help me. Now, I can see that He really IS here to help me.”**

PATCH Prayer Warriors

Sign up to become a Prayer Warrior for Patch and receive monthly emails with updated requests and praises from all three Patch locations (Garden Valley, Goldendale, Vancouver). Then, join us in prayer for these special requests throughout the next month. Sign up today by visiting projectpatch.org/signup.

Invite us to Speak

Interested in having a PATCH staff member speak for your group? Visit projectpatch.org/seminars to request a speaker today!

Wish List

We maintain a list of things we need and want at each of our locations, so supporters know how they can best provide for our needs. Check out our current list on page 6 of this newsletter.

Help Us Save Money!

We are now able to offer this newsletter in electronic form! If you are interested in receiving this newsletter via email instead of in hard copy (which costs us printing and a stamp), sign up at projectpatch.org/signup. Thank you for your help!

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Help Us Save Money!

If you are interested in receiving this newsletter in electronic form rather than hard copy, please let us know by emailing info@projectpatch.org.

What can be accomplished in just one weekend?

by Jessica Hohman

We are often asked the question: “What can you accomplish with a family in just one weekend?” Well, after 15 successful Family Experience Weekends in the last year alone (with families of various backgrounds) we realize it is more than we could have expected.

Each family that attends one of our three-day Family Experience Weekends (cost for a family of four is approximately \$1,200) receives 25 hours of family coaching and activities facilitated by a therapist with a master's degree, and an additional experienced facilitator. This is the equivalent of 6 months of weekly, one-hour family therapy sessions (which, on average, would cost about \$3,750).

Project Patch acknowledges that ongoing family therapy can be beneficial for families. We have found that families who are already in family therapy find the Family Experience Weekends to be an added supplement to their process.

One such family originally called us with an interest in sending their oldest



▲ **Each participant in the Family Experience Weekend has an opportunity to connect in an intentional way and to gain new insight into their relationships and themselves.**

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