

## Project Patch Wish List

For those who prefer to give toward a specific project, the following list contains items which are needed, yet are not part of the operating budget. Please make sure to note on your gift if you would like it designated for a Wish List item. In the event that the item has already been purchased, we will contact you for further instructions.

### Ranch:

(\$350) Marita Multi Tool (or Fein Saw) and blades

(\$45) SAE and Metric Wrench Sets

(\$40) Torque Wrench

(\$200 each, \$400 total) Digital Cameras

(\$5-25 each, \$200 total) Biographies for Student Library

(\$50 each, \$200 total) Hand-held Midland Multi-channel Radio

(\$500) Lego Technic Classroom Set

(\$170) Marita Reciprocating Saw

### Goldendale Family Experience and Retreat Center:

(\$6,500) Refrigerator/Freezer repair

(\$8,000) 4x4 Work Pickup Truck

(\$2,000) Electric wire feed welder

(\$2,000) Ice Maker

### Vancouver Office:

Volunteer(s) for building and grounds maintenance

(\$500) Gravel and Bark Chips

If you are mailing a check for a specific item, please mark "Wish List" and the item you'd like to purchase on your check. To make your donation via credit card, you can call our office at 360-690-8495 or give online at [www.projectpatch.org/supportpatch](http://www.projectpatch.org/supportpatch).

### Contact Us:

[www.projectpatch.org](http://www.projectpatch.org)

2404 E Mill Plain Blvd #A  
Vancouver, WA 98661

360-690-8495



### Putting It All Together: Renewing Young Minds

This edition of PatchWorks is focused on the renewal of the young minds. The kids that come to Project Patch are bright kids. However, many of them are struggling because their minds are clouded, confused and full of anxiety.

Parents often tell us that their kids would be passing classes if grades were only based on tests and not on completing assignments. Other parents are baffled because assignments are completed but never turned in. Others know their kids just aren't trying.

I love the promise found in Romans 12:2 which says, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will."

There are two powerful words in this passage. The first is "transformed" which is the same Greek word for "metamorphism" which we now use to describe how a caterpillar changes into a butterfly. The second word is "renewing" which carries the idea of making something totally different.

I'm not trying to make a theological study but instead capture the power of what God wants to do. He wants to transform minds from a point of chaos, foolishness, selfishness, doubt and confusion to a new state of clarity, focus, wisdom, love and in harmony with His will.

At Patch we know only God can do the renewing and that he also calls us to help. We work on two fronts. One is to help teens decrease their negative thinking. This is the battle with fear, insecurity, memories and emotional wounds. The other front is the positive; learning purpose, understanding ourselves, seeking wisdom, reconciling, forgiving and accountable.

The key of our program is building relationships between staff, kids, parents and most importantly God. We use tools like work, school, Bible class, recreation, community service, group counseling, and individual counseling. Our staff inspire and model change by living a life transformed and renewed by God.

I hope as you read this edition that you will understand through the stories the power and importance of this work. Thank you for your support and prayers.



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

### Overcoming My Fear

I felt my cheeks growing red and my hands beginning to sweat. Everyone just sat there expectantly looking at me. My mind swam and I wanted to run away. I decided the best course of action was to say the poem as fast as I could and then run off the stage. I did exactly that. Afterwards I was told I had failed. I decided that I was going to stay away from giving presentations. I believed I couldn't ever get past my fear.

Through school at Patch, I have been able to overcome my fear of presenting. Before coming to Patch I didn't know how to generate enough enthusiasm to keep my audience engaged or even interested. Problems I faced were pronunciation, talking too fast and filling empty space (saying "uh", "um", "like"). I was convinced that I was never going to be able to present a topic that would captivate or have an impact on my audience.

When I came to Patch, I didn't think I would have to present anything. It frustrated me when I found out that I had to present counseling assignments to my group. I felt they would mock me. I was surprised when they didn't, and my confidence grew a little bit. As I was working on my advanced writing, I learned I was going to have to do a presentation. The time came for me to present and I completely panicked. My hands became sweaty, my stomach knotted, and I felt light headed. I made it through the presentation, but struggled with enthusiasm. I still got positive responses and helpful criticism. My confidence slowly started building, but I still hated presentations.

I had to present more though and received feedback from teachers, peers and staff. I started working to fix areas I struggled with. Some were easy and others more challenging. The hardest was being enthusiastic and sincere. I practiced with staff. I started becoming comfortable presenting and enjoyed the encouraging feedback.

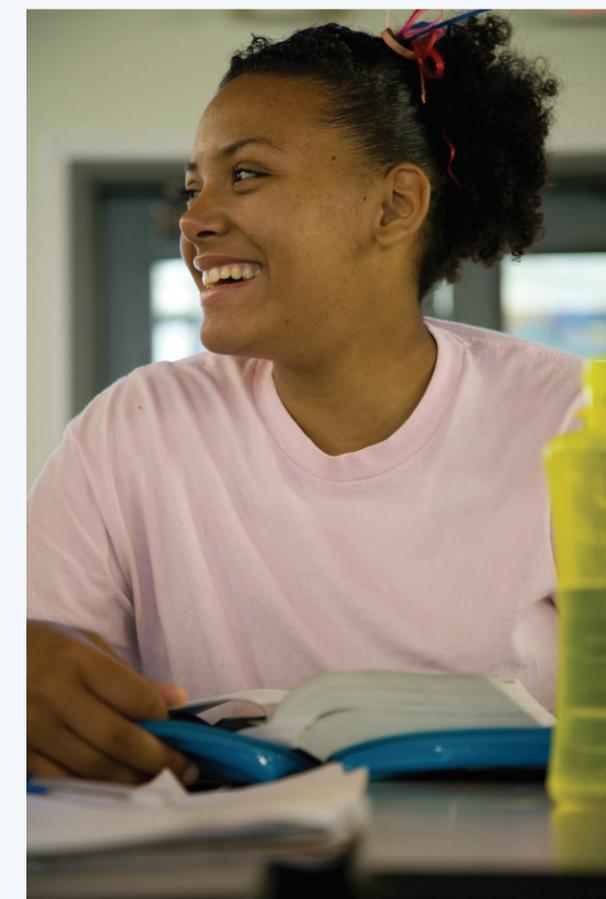
Then came my biggest challenge. One of my teachers wanted me to present my Alaska slideshow presentation at the Senior Center. There would be eighty to ninety people there, way too many. Rather than running from the challenge, I decided that I was going to try my hardest. I practiced for hours with staff and teachers. The day came and I was extremely nervous. My goal was to show people how much I loved Alaska. I poured my heart into it and succeeded. They gave me a great applause and many people came up and told me I had done an amazing job. I met several people who had been to Alaska, some even knew several of my friends.

This experience really helped boost my confidence! It was also a turning point for me. I realized I had been letting "fear of failure" control me. Fear of failure has always been a big part of my life. I'm confident when I present now because I know I can do it. I've even started to enjoy it a little.

I'm also learning to face other fears in my life and it is making a big difference. I'm really thankful for Patch helping me overcome my fear of failure.

*Teen pictures in this newsletter are of clients that have attended Project Patch Youth Ranch and have given permission for their images to be used. Authors of articles in this issue have asked to be unidentified and pictures associated with their articles are of other teens.*

Attention, friends of Project Patch! We need your email address! Please send it to [info@projectpatch.org](mailto:info@projectpatch.org).





## I Struggled

Hi my name is Nathan\* and I struggle in school, a lot. I have always been easily distracted by negativity, but with the help of staff and peers I have worked through my struggles. Eventually, I flicked on the light that changed my life. I accepted that I need help and I needed to kick aside my pride. It is amazing here; I have learned so much.



I came to Patch at the age of 16 but I was at a 3rd grade competence in math. I worked very hard and set away my pride and kept my mind on the prize. As of now I'm leaving Patch at an 11th grade math level. I raced through eight years of math in only a year! I'm leaving Patch with a 3.3 GPA! That's the highest it's ever been in my life. Patch is not a waste of time, it not only helped me with school but it helped me with my life.

Before I came to Patch I struggled with drugs, alcohol and sex. I had extreme anger issues, and I didn't care about anyone but myself. I never had parents. Growing up I felt lost and alone. My emotions led my life and got me into more and more trouble. The staff at Patch are not connected to me by blood but I consider them my family. They put up with me and all my emotions that were held up inside of me for years.

I thank you so much for helping me figure out my life. If your child is struggling like I was I recommend Patch. Staff here accept who you are and don't care what you've done. They will teach you to forgive and forget. And teach you the true meaning of LOVE!!

\*Name changed to protect identity of teen.

## Learning Through Setbacks

Before I came to Project Patch, I struggled to keep up my grades in math. My seventh grade math teacher was very laid back and funny. He would tell jokes in class and be silly, although he could be serious. Many of his students passed his math class because the concepts came easy for them. But I was failing. I'd get distracted and wouldn't get anything done. I understood things and knew how to do the work but I didn't do the work. I was just too lazy and often didn't turn in my homework because I didn't want to complete work I felt like I already knew.

When I first came to Patch, ALEKS (our web-based math program) first assessment didn't even place me in pre-algebra. It was discouraging. About halfway through my second quarter, I took a comprehensive exam and moved up to pre-algebra. As what I was working on started getting harder, I was grateful that I had paid attention to some of my earlier math classes.

It was difficult for me to remember key things. Every time I would take an assessment, I would miss questions because I couldn't remember formulas or key steps.

Finally, I started taking notes and writing down equations such as the Pythagorean Theorem, Scientific Notations and even the Surface Area of a Triangular prism. It's become much easier to remember things in math. When I first got here, I would think, "Oh, I have no need to take notes because I'll be able to remember it on my own. I was so wrong!"

When I first started pre-algebra, I was at 21%. About 2 quarters later I got up to around 80-90%. When I was at 91%, I took a comprehensive exam. I was very eager to get out of pre-algebra. When I finished the exam, I was a bit disappointed that I was still in Pre-Algebra. The good news, however, is that I had made a huge improvement!

I am glad that I was forced to stay in Pre-Algebra. It helped me not only learn math but study skills which are paying off. I'm confident I will make it in math and other areas I set my mind on!

*Project Patch - Building thriving families, restoring hope to teens, empowering supportive communities since 1984.*



## Today's Family Experience Is There an Easier Way?

Whether it's parents or kids, everyone is searching for "life hacks" which make life easier. Youtube, the second largest search engine in the world, has over six million videos with the most popular "Life Hack" channel being viewed over 11 million times.

People are searching for easier ways to do things that are challenging or not fun. At The Family Experience we've helped families discover a "life hack" that is making a huge difference for them.

This life hack impacts how we communicate, make decisions, deal with conflict and even have fun. Families tell us that they knew there was something that was always getting in the way, making things harder, but they couldn't put their finger on it.

What is the life hack? Personality. Every family is made up of unique people who naturally respond to things differently. Some family members are energized by groups while others revive in alone time. Some make decisions impulsively while others dive into the details and facts. Some feel great when everyone is getting along while others feel alive when everyone is following their lead. Everyone is different and we believe God is honored when we value the personalities he formed in each of us.

The life hack is helping us understand not only how others in the family function but also in understanding ourselves. The Family Experience uses a simple personality profile pioneered by Gary Smalley and John Trent which makes it fun and easy for the whole family to discover their unique and shared attributes.

Personality is one of the main foundations for the entire Family Experience Weekend which helps parents not only avoid conflict but improves communication and helps parents transition from punishment to the power of discipline.

One parent recently shared, "It was helpful in learning how to talk to the individual and know how to get a better response or be supportive."

Every family could benefit from spending a weekend with our highly trained coaches and experiential learning team. Learn more and register at [thefamilyexperience.org](http://thefamilyexperience.org).



## Calendar of Events

**Oct. 20-23 Family Experience**  
Goldendale, Washington

**Oct. 20-23 Parenting Seminar: Help! Video Games Are Invading My Home!**  
Alpine, Wyoming

**Oct. 25 25 Years in Idaho Celebration**

**Oct. 26 Project Patch Board Meeting**  
Garden Valley, Idaho

**Nov. 3-6 Girls Alumni Weekend**  
The Family Experience, Goldendale, WA

Your donations make a big difference in the lives of troubled teens and their families!

To donate go to [projectpatch.org/donate](http://projectpatch.org/donate)  
Thank you!

## Special Ways to Help Our Kids:

Are you interested in volunteering?  
Learn more at [projectpatch.org/volunteer](http://projectpatch.org/volunteer)

Join our Prayer Warrior Team!  
Go to [projectpatch.org/prayer](http://projectpatch.org/prayer)

Have you seen our Facebook Page?  
Like us!  
[facebook.com/projectpatch](https://facebook.com/projectpatch)

We are grateful to be working with you to accomplish our mission.