

# PATCH WORK

Parents and Their Children

June 2011

Visit us online at [www.chillicothepatch.org](http://www.chillicothepatch.org)

## She Remembered They Were Called "PATCH Visits"

She was just six years old when her mother was incarcerated. Her grandmother took care of them for awhile, but Gloria Evans and her younger brother were forced to enter the St. Louis foster care system when her grandmother relocated to another state leaving Gloria and her brother behind.

*PATCH worked with a St. Louis area church at the time to provide transportation for children to visit their mothers incarcerated at Chillicothe Correctional Center (formerly Chillicothe Prison for Women) .*

PATCH arranged for Gloria and her brother to come for PATCH visits with their mother in the PATCH trailer (the PATCH visiting room at the time). "It was always a great visit especially when our family was able to have quality time in a place that felt like home, where there were no vending machines, stark white walls, or bars to intensify the moment. For that one day, for a few hours, we could be in a home-like environment with our mom and that was great!"

As time went on, Gloria faced new disappointments including being separated from her brother in foster care and enduring two foster care placements. She experienced guilt and shame



Gloria Evans having fun with her brother on her wedding day.

associated with her mother's situation, and suffered a fear of abandonment. She often told school friends that she lived with her grandmother and that her foster sisters and brothers were her cousins.

At age 13 Gloria entered 7th grade and encountered two women, her science and math teachers, who would forever impact her life. These teachers spent extra time with Gloria and encouraged her to get involved in enrichment programs that were geared toward academics and college. They nicknamed Gloria and three of her other classmates, "The Dream Team", and told them that they would all do GREAT THINGS!

Gloria latched on to the positive messages. She ventured out of the familiar ten block area of St. Louis to attend college. She graduated from Central Missouri State University with a Bachelor of Science degree and went on to receive a Master of Science in Higher Education. Her mentors were rooting for her all the way!

*Gloria's story cont'd page 3*

## Volunteers Needed

to transport children from the following communities to Chillicothe Correctional Center for PATCH visits with their mothers:

**Kansas City      Springfield**  
**St. Joseph        St. Louis**  
**Joplin**

May drive own vehicle or organization vehicle.

Maximum of two mother's children per trip.

Driving history and background checks provided by PATCH.

For more information email [director@chillicothepatch.org](mailto:director@chillicothepatch.org).

# Volunteers: The Heart of PATCH

## DRIVERS

These devoted volunteers drive their own vehicles or a church van to transport children under 18 for a four hour visit with their mothers in PATCH visiting rooms at Chillicothe Correctional Center. Chillicothe is located at the intersection of Hwy 36 and 65 in northwest Missouri. PATCH provides background and driving

history checks for all volunteer drivers. Two adult volunteers are required for each trip. The PATCH Visit Coordinator schedules two visits for the time period so drivers are bringing two mother's children on each trip. She works closely with drivers and the caregivers to assure a successful experience. Children need the positive influence you provide.

## VISIT SUPERVISORS

These devoted volunteers assist the PATCH staff with the mother-child visit in PATCH visiting rooms. They might help with a craft project, admire artwork, or sing Happy Birthday when the occasion arises. They help get lunch ready and may take a photo or two. At least one volunteer is necessary for each visit.

## A Gift from the Heart: Donate in Honor or Memory of Someone Special

Honor someone special while helping children maintain connections with their mothers in prison.

### That's two gifts in one!

**In Honor of** — gift given to recognize someone for outstanding service or to celebrate a special occasion  
A note will be sent to the person being honored and the name will appear in the next issue of PATCHWORK.

**In Memory of** — gift given in memory of someone special

Memorial gifts will be listed in the next issue of PATCHWORK and a note will be sent to the family.

Fill out the form below and mail with your check to PATCH, P.O. Box 871, Chillicothe, MO 64601 or donate online at [chillicothepatch.org/donations.htm](http://chillicothepatch.org/donations.htm).

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount of donation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 In honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
 In memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please send card to: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

GIFT OF HONOR	MEMORIAL GIFT
Reverend Cynthia Buhman Barbara Pierce Mary Ann Shaw	Mable Criswell Raymond M. Boyd Rita Jones

PATCH is a not for profit, classified tax-exempt organization (501(c)(3) .

Contact PATCH Director or Visit Coordinator at 1-800-284-0145 or [director@chillicothepatch.org](mailto:director@chillicothepatch.org).

**Please check one:**  
 I would prefer to view the newsletter online.  
 Remove my name from the mailing list.  
 Add the enclosed name and address to the mailing list.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address \_\_\_\_\_

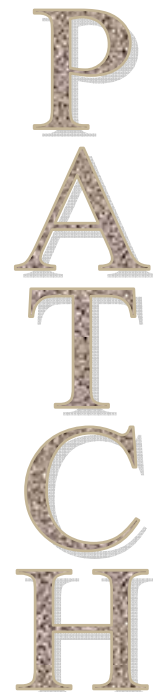
## Critten Joins PATCH As Visit Coordinator



Marian Critten, PATCH Visit Coordinator

The PATCH Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Marian Critten has recently joined the staff as Visit Coordinator. She keeps busy coordinating and supervising visits for children with their incarcerated mothers in PATCH visiting rooms at Chillicothe Correctional Center.

Marian's career in education as a classroom teacher and elementary school principal along with her most recent years as a GED teacher at Chillicothe Correctional Center have uniquely prepared her for her work with PATCH. Marian understands children and also incarcerated mothers. She has a passion to help them keep the connection during this difficult separation.



### Gloria's Story cont'd...

Gloria's first position following graduate school was as Hall Director at the University of New Hampshire. She later moved to Knoxville, Tennessee, and held the same position at the University of Tennessee.

Gloria, now 30 years old, says, "I felt God leading me in a new direction, and I am currently the director of a mentoring program for children who have incarcerated parents. " She and her husband are expecting their first child in December.

Gloria's brother also encountered positive role models who introduced him to television and radio broadcasting. He is now a radio personality for a popular hip hop station in St. Louis.

Gloria's mother returned home after 10 years when Gloria was 16 years old. The transition back to a "normal" family structure was difficult, but they weathered the storm and their family unit is intact.

"The PATCH program had a hand in making this family reunion a success. PATCH visits provided the opportunity for "the door to stay open" between my mother and brother and I. The visits made us feel like a "normal" family and ultimately helped us to bridge the gap back to our life at home as a family".

Contact PATCH for information or to arrange a speaker for your group.

*"I remember they were called "PATCH Visits" , Gloria said, when she called recently. She wanted to tell her story and express appreciation for PATCH visits that helped a little girl and her brother get through a difficult time many years ago. PATCH played a part and so did the wonderful teachers Gloria writes about who reached out to provide the encouragement she needed . How gratifying it is to know that we can all be a part of someone's wonderful story.*

*Barb Burton, PATCH Director*



Gloria Evans with her mother and grandmother on her wedding day.

# PATCH

Parents and Their Children

P.O. Box 871  
Chillicothe, MO 64601

800-284-0145  
director@chillicothepatch.org  
[www.chillicothepatch.org](http://www.chillicothepatch.org)

*Attention Churches:*

*Please share this newsletter with your church's mission committee .*

---

## The Beat ...News from PATCH

- ♥ **PATCH** was on display in the exhibit hall at the United Methodist Annual Conference in Springfield in June. It was a great opportunity to spread the word about PATCH and recruit volunteers.
- ♥ **PATCH** received a financial gift from a PATCH volunteer to honor her mother on Mother's Day. The mother is also a PATCH volunteer. Three children's books were added to the PATCH visiting room library with an inscription to honor this special Mom. Gifts to honor someone special will be recognized in the PATCH newsletter. See inside for details.
- ♥ **PATCH and Let's Start** of St. Louis have organized a third PATCH group visit for children from the St. Louis and Columbia areas on July 13th at Chillicothe Correctional Center. Children are brought on a charter bus for a four hour visit with their mothers in a group setting. PATCH provides lunch, photos and craft activities. Let's Start provides the bus.
- ♥ **Because of the generosity of PATCH supporters, there have been PATCH visits** for 133 incarcerated mothers and 225 children since July 1, 2010. All mothers have completed the five-week session of ten parenting classes. Thank you for your support!
- ♥ **The Department of Corrections Program Tracking Committee is now tracking the Turning Points PATCH parenting curriculum.** Through this process, PATCH can track the rate of recidivism for PATCH moms.
- ♥ Welcome Marian Critten, **new PATCH Visit Coordinator!**
- ♥ **Volunteer drivers** from the Kansas City, St. Joseph, Springfield and Joplin areas are needed. Contact PATCH.
- ♥ **Partial funding** for PATCH is provided by the Children's Trust Fund of MO.