



PATCH WORK

Parents and Their Children

Spring 2009

Visit us online at www.chillicothepatch.org!

PATCH has Moved... Along with the Rest of the Prison!

We said goodbye to the trailer where PATCH visits have been held for over 20 years and hello to two brand new PATCH visiting rooms under the roof of the new \$120 million, 430,000 square foot Chillicothe Correctional Center in northwest Chillicothe.

The new facility will accommodate 1,636 offenders, more than triple the capacity of the old institution's operating capacity of 525. There are currently 984 female offenders at CCC.

Needless to say, there have been a lot of changes for the female offenders, many of whom were recently

transferred from Vandalia to help relieve overcrowded conditions there.

According to the MO Department of Corrections, Missouri's female prison population has increased by 150% during the past 10 years to more than 2,500 inmates.

More Mothers—More Visits

PATCH is committed to accommodate the larger population by scheduling as many visits as can be supervised by our staff and volunteers. We are working to recruit more volunteers to help with transportation and to assist with visits.

OUR PATCH MOTHERS SHARE PATCH has helped me become a better mom by...

- ☺ "... making me realize how much my children need me, and how much I need them. It makes me want to better myself in every way possible and work harder, not just for what I can provide for them, and the love that I can give them, but also what I can teach them." — Lauralei
- ☺ "... helping me recognize the right way to tell them "no" without crossing boundaries. PATCH has

Happy Mother's Day!!!



been really helpful with the realization that I am going to be a parent for the rest of my life." — Mary

- ☺ "... reminding me how to praise my children when they do something, not to yell at them when they do something wrong, not to hit them when disciplining them. Teaching me that love is an action, not an emotion." — Mayberry

PATCH Welcomes a New Director

It is a privilege for me to join Coleen Scott and this caring group of volunteers to help meet the challenges and opportunities of the PATCH organization as we transition from serving the children of 500 offender moms to 984 (and counting) at the recently completed Chillicothe Correctional Center. I will be working to increase awareness of PATCH throughout the state and encourage and show people and groups how they can be a part of this effort to keep children connected to their mothers in prison. We cannot give up on these children and these families. They need each other. We must do all we can.



Barb Burton

My experience includes several years on the PATCH Board of Directors, seven years as the Executive Director of the Chillicothe Area Chamber of Commerce, and also Child and Family Development Specialist with University of MO Extension. I have lived in Chillicothe since 1975.

Coleen Scott continues as PATCH Visit Coordinator and will devote her time to coordinating PATCH visits for the increased population of mothers at Chillicothe Correctional Center as well as teaching parenting classes.

Please visit our new website at www.chillicothepatch.org for more information about PATCH.

Email Barb at director@chillicothepatch.org.

PATCH Recognizes Volunteers

Invitation to Ride Along Leads to Many Years Volunteering for PATCH

It all started when Nadine Butler noticed an old friend's picture in her community's newspaper. She was being honored for her volunteer work with a local food bank. The article also mentioned that she was a volunteer for PATCH. As they visited one day, Nadine inquired about PATCH. Her friend explained that she drove children to see their mothers who were in prison at Chillicothe Correctional Center and invited Nadine to ride along on an upcoming trip.

In the fall of 1987, Nadine and her husband, Dick, became PATCH

volunteers, and made their first trip to Chillicothe bringing a little boy just under a year old to visit his mother. Dick drove and Nadine was free to help with the child. For twenty years the Butlers brought children from the Kansas City area to have PATCH visits with their mothers in prison. They estimate they brought 5 children per month (all



Dick and Nadine Butler

their van would hold) for twenty years. The children varied in age from infants through teenagers. Some of the same children rode with the Butlers a number of times over the years.

Pictured at left are Dick and Nadine Butler, PATCH volunteers for over 20 years. Dick, a retired CPA, has served as treasurer for the PATCH Board for a number of years.

What Is a PATCH visit?

PATCH visits are held in special visiting rooms reserved only for offender mothers and their children. They are equipped with toys, games, and a soft rug to accommodate sitting and playing with toys on the floor. A rocking chair and sofa provide a place for reading together or talking. A child-size and full-size table and chairs are available for crafts and coloring, and eating lunch together. Lunch is prepared by mom for her children. A

microwave is available for cooking and reheating. A fenced area is just outside with a picnic table for outdoor activities.

PATCH visits are special because mom and children are together without the distractions of other children or adults visiting other offenders in the general visiting room. This is valuable one-on-one time for offender moms and their children. Visits are super-

vised by PATCH staff and/or PATCH volunteers. Officers are nearby, but not required in the PATCH visiting rooms.

PATCH visits are earned by the offender moms. Moms must complete seven sessions of parenting classes before they are eligible to apply for a PATCH visit. Three more sessions must be completed before another visit is scheduled.

Coleen's Corner

Hey gang! We are finally settled in our new prison. PATCH visits were not scheduled in October through December because of the move. PATCH visits began again in January and the process has been slow.

We have twice the population of offenders we had at the other location. Parenting classes have been drawing 30 plus for each session.

I really want to thank everyone for their support of PATCH. We have really appreciated it. I am working fewer hours now and mainly working with visits and parenting classes. Barb, our new director, has lots of good ideas.

Please keep PATCH in your prayers.

Please visit our new website for more information about PATCH, including volunteer opportunities, donation ideas, and to read the latest edition of PATCHWORK, the official publication of PATCH.

PATCH Staff Receives CPR Certification

Barb Burton and Coleen Scott, PATCH Staff, and Lou Cowherd, PATCH Board President, were given the opportunity by DOC to receive American Red Cross CPR training for infants and children during a day-long session at Chillicothe Correctional Center.

The skills and techniques for these age groups require extra practice. Many breaths and compressions later, all were certified.

Visit us online at:
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Inmates who have contact with their families are less likely to return to prison once they've been released.

- Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency

"Nobody visits women in prison. Their men have left, and the children live with relatives who can't drive, can't afford the gas, or can't manage a carful of kids".

- Sister Suzanne Jabro, C.S. J., Office of Restorative Justice, Los Angeles, CA

How You Can Help...

FUNDING

PATCH is funded entirely from the donations of individuals, churches, organizations, foundations and corporations. All donations to PATCH are tax deductible. Receipts are provided for donations.

You can help:

- Organize a fundraiser for PATCH in your community.
- Provide "A Day with Mom" for one child - includes transportation, lunch, a photo with mom and four hours of quality time.
- Make PATCH the beneficiary of a portion of a special offering.
- Donate in memory or in honor of a special loved one or friend.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers play a vital role in the operation of PATCH. Several opportunities for volunteers are listed below. Contact us for an application.

TRANSPORT CHILDREN

Drivers are needed. Two adults are required for each trip.

- Drivers are needed to pick up children in the local area using the PATCH Van or own vehicle, transport them to the Chillicothe Correctional Center and return them home following the visit.
- Drivers are needed from across the state of Missouri to pick up children from their community and possibly other communities along the route using their own

vehicle or an organization or church vehicle, transport them to Chillicothe Correctional Center and return them following the visit.

Volunteer by:
Driving
or
Supervising
PATCH Visits

SUPERVISE PATCH VISITS

Visits are held on weekdays and weekends from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. or 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

- Supervise and assist with visits between offender mothers and their children. Responsibilities include assisting with activities, lunch preparation, photos, and helping with very young children.

Our Mission...

To provide children and their mothers, incarcerated within the Department of Corrections, with services necessary to maintain and strengthen family relationships during periods of separation due to incarceration.



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Attention Churches: Please share this newsletter with your church's mission committee .

Help Us Update Our Mailing List...

If you would prefer to view the newsletter online instead of receiving it through the mail, please email director@chillicothepatch.org, and we will remove your name from our mailing list.

We are happy to continue to mail our newsletter to those who want to receive it. Churches are encouraged to share it with their church's mission committee.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Email address _____

Please check one:

Yes, I want to continue to receive the PATCH newsletter by mail.

Please remove my name from the newsletter mailing list.

I would prefer to view the PATCH newsletter online.

Please return to PATCH in the enclosed, self-addressed envelope or you may email your response to director@chillicothepatch.org. Thank you!!