



PATCH WORK

Parents and Their Children

Spring 2010

Visit us online at www.chillicothepatch.org!

Across the Miles: PATCH Brings Children and Moms Together

When children need transportation to visit their mothers who are incarcerated at Chillicothe Correctional Center, PATCH calls on volunteer drivers from across Missouri. Volunteers drive from Springfield, Kansas City, St. Joseph, Odessa, Lake of the Ozarks, Sedalia, Columbia and Maryville to bring children for PATCH visits.

The best
Mother's Day
Gift is time
with my
child.

PATCH Moms



PATCH volunteers drive the PATCH van to transport children within a 150-mile radius of Chillicothe Correctional Center.



Children get on the road early to arrive in Chillicothe in time for their visit with mom. Visits in PATCH visiting rooms can be planned for any day of the week including the weekend. Visits are 4 hours and always include lunch and a photo with mom.

The 65 Connection... Springfield to Chillicothe

By Dan Penovich

Alice and I have been driving for PATCH since 2004. We have made connections with young people from Springfield, Lampe, Clever, Joplin and Neosho. Buffalo, Urbana, Preston, Warsaw, Lincoln, Sedalia and Marshall have also been connection points.

spend extra quality time with their mothers. Our youngest passengers were a 2-month-old baby girl and a one-and a half-year-old boy. The majority of the passengers have been middle school through high school age.

We make a trip to Chillicothe one day each month. We leave Springfield at 6am and drive 200 miles north, approximately four hours. The young people have a 4-hour visit with their mothers, so Alice and I take this time to visit the YMCA, have lunch at the Senior Center, read at the public library or go shopping.

We appreciate the support from our church, Schweitzer United Methodist. They provide a church van, gas money, snacks, juice boxes and a small pillow for each child to use. They often send coloring books and story books. The Ozark Piecemakers Quilt Group has provided a quilt for each child on their first trip with us. We enjoy driving for PATCH to help maintain and strengthen the special bond between a young person and their mother during this period of separation.

We return to the prison at 2:30pm for the trip home. It is a long, but very satisfying day as we see the happy young faces who have had



Schweitzer United Methodist Church sends a van each month from Springfield with children to visit their mothers.

Contact PATCH to become a volunteer driver 800-284-0145.

Incarcerated Mothers Earn PATCH Parenting Certificate

Understanding Your Parenting Style... Dealing with Complex Emotions in Children... Communicating from a Distance... Rebuilding Trust... Dealing with Children's Anger... Positive Discipline Techniques... Self-Esteem in Children and Their Parents... Keeping Children Safe from Harm... Setting Developmentally Appropriate Expectations... Understanding Temperaments within the Family

Nineteen (19) incarcerated mothers of children under 18 were the first group in 2010 to earn a PATCH Parenting Certificate. Each participant attended eight weekly parent education classes that covered the topics listed above.

The next class of sixteen (16)

incarcerated mothers will complete their certificate in May.

With the PATCH Parenting Certificate, the recipient is then eligible to apply for PATCH Visits.

A current year PATCH Parenting Certificate is required to be eligible for PATCH Visits.

PATCH Parenting Support group classes are held weekly to provide an additional opportunity for incarcerated mothers to learn and discuss parenting issues.

Attendance at three support group meetings is required for subsequent PATCH Visits.

PATCH Is Available To Speak To Your Organization or Church Group!

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.

Missouri currently has about 30,000 men and women incarcerated in prisons.



Melissa Grable, PATCH Visit Coordinator, has a B.S. in Social Work and is a former psychiatric social worker and community support worker.

PATCH Visit Coordinator Joins Staff

Melissa Grable joined the PATCH staff in January 2010. She works to coordinate PATCH visits for children of incarcerated mothers at Chillicothe Correctional Center who have completed the required PATCH Parenting Classes.

She meets with the mother and contacts the caregivers of their children in preparation for the visit. She also contacts PATCH volunteers to arrange

supervision and transportation (if needed). She greets the children and is their first contact at the prison during a PATCH visit.

She and the PATCH volunteer supervisors assist with activities, lunch, and photos. They provide assistance for the mother and her children during the visit.

Thanks from a PATCH Mom...

Dear PATCH,

I just wanted to say thank you. Thank you for your time, efforts, and money to make these visits possible for us and our children. My daughter, Courtney, was able to come and see me for the first time in over two years, and it was all possible because of you.

Courtney is 13 and, at first, was apprehensive about riding with “strangers”, but the folks that brought her up were so nice and she was so comfortable, she even fell asleep on the way home! I couldn’t believe it!

When I talked to her a few days

later, the first words she said were, “Did you do the classes yet so I can come back and see you?” You can’t imagine how happy I was to hear her say that.

A mere “thank you” is hardly enough to express my gratitude and appreciation to all of you for making that visit possible, but it’s all I have for now. So, thank you, from the bottom of my heart. It was the best day I’ve had in two years, and we are both looking forward to our next visit, made possible by all of you. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ramona

“ Ask a man what his main concern is when he gets into prison, and he’ll say ‘getting out’. Ask a woman...

She doesn’t say her freedom, she doesn’t say getting out, she doesn’t say anything else, she’ll say ‘her children’. She’s worried about her children.”

– Susie, Incarcerated Mother

PATCH has helped me become a better mom by...

Teaching me that even though I messed up now that I still can learn how to be a better mom than what I was. Being a mom is a full time job. It takes a lot to teach your child the right and the wrongs of life. I love knowing that I can make up for my mistakes when I get out.

— Lisa

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

Contact Us...

Barb Burton, Director, director@chillicothepatch.org or 800-284-0145

Melissa Grable, PATCH Visit Coordinator

Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email address _____ <i>Send to PATCH: P.O. Box 871, Chillicothe, MO 64601 or email director@chillicothepatch.org</i>	Please check one: <input type="checkbox"/> I want to receive the newsletter by mail. <input type="checkbox"/> Remove my name from the mailing list. <input type="checkbox"/> I would prefer to view the newsletter online.
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Attention Churches: Please share this newsletter with your church's mission committee .

Help PATCH Bring St. Louis Children to Visit Their Mothers at CCC

PATCH is working with *Let's Start*, St. Louis, to bring a 32-passenger bus filled with children and their caregivers from the St. Louis area to Chillicothe Correctional Center (CCC) this summer for a group visit with their incarcerated mothers. CCC has given their approval to start the wheels rolling on this project.

PATCH does not currently have volunteers transporting children from the St. Louis area to CCC for PATCH visits with their mothers.

PATCH will need \$1250 for the bus and additional funds to provide a sack lunch for the participants. PATCH will also provide a photo for each child and their mother. The offender mothers will be required to take PATCH Parenting Classes prior to the visit.

If you would like to contribute to this project, send your financial gift to PATCH, P.O. Box 871, Chillicothe, MO 64601, and indicate the ***St. Louis Bus Trip*** on the check.

Let's Start is a tax exempt organization that supports women in transition from prison back to the community. They will provide snacks and supervision for the bus trip to CCC. They will remind and follow up with the families.

