



PATCH WORK

Parents and Their Children

October 2010

Visit us online at www.chillicothepatch.org.

PATCH Brings St. Louis Area Children to Visit Their Mothers at CCC

Children from the St. Louis area traveled by bus to Chillicothe to visit their incarcerated mothers in a “first ever” PATCH group visit at Chillicothe Correctional Center (CCC) on August 11th. One week before the start of school, children and caregivers arrived at CCC for a four-hour visit that included lunch, craft activities, photos, and, most importantly, personal one-on-one time for the children with their mothers. The visit was held in the larger general population visiting room on a non-visiting day. Tables and chairs were grouped together to accommodate each family in an effort to resemble the “more private” PATCH visit. PATCH is currently seeking volunteer drivers from the St. Louis area to bring children for PATCH visits.

Participating mothers attended PATCH parenting classes prior to the visit and met all PATCH eligibility requirements. Most of the children had not seen their mothers in over 6 months; for others, it had been several years.



St. Louis area children board the bus early for the trip to CCC in Chillicothe. Let's Start volunteers accompanied the children on the bus and provided activity books and snacks. Let's Start has been reaching out to these children since the visit.



This visit was provided through the efforts of PATCH and *Let's Start* of St. Louis with the cooperation of Chillicothe Correctional Center. Bus transportation was made possible through the generous gifts and contributions of St. Louis area citizens including a trivia fundraiser organized by June Pearse, former PATCH director at Renz, the Criminal Justice Team of MO Union Presbytery and PATCH supporters throughout the state.

Maintaining contact with incarcerated parents has been shown to help relieve the emotional trauma of having a parent in prison for children and also to reduce behavior problems with peers and academic failure at school.

Transportation is a barrier for children who would like to visit their mothers in prison. 70% of all PATCH visits in the last year were dependent on PATCH supported transportation.

Your support of PATCH enables us to continue to provide this important service.

Next Bus Visit is December 29th!

Bus transportation for this visit will be provided by Let's Start of St. Louis, an organization that supports women in transition from prison back to the community. www.letsstart.org.

PATCH Receives Funding from Children's Trust Fund of Missouri

PATCH of Chillicothe will be receiving some funding from The Children's Trust Fund of Missouri for 2011 through the Trust Fund's General Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention grant.

Children of incarcerated parents are at greater risk for abuse and neglect, both while their parents are incarcerated and after their parents return to the home

according to studies by the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect.

PATCH has a unique opportunity to provide information and education to incarcerated mothers through parent education classes and weekly support group. Increased knowledge of child development and improved

parenting skills will decrease the risk of child abuse and neglect for their children. During supervised PATCH visits with their children, incarcerated mothers will have the opportunity to practice new skills.



A PATCH representative is available to speak to your organization or group.

Church Organizations Collect for PATCH

United Methodist Women (UMW) organizations throughout Missouri collected basic supplies for PATCH visits and delivered them to annual conference in October. Items included paper plates, napkins, plastic tableware, baby wipes, crayons, paper bags, and sidewalk chalk. PATCH appreciates these items and the financial gifts given by UMW groups across the state.



The Criminal Justice Mission Team of the Missouri Union Presbytery annually supports the transportation of children for PATCH visits. These contributions help with the costs of maintaining the PATCH van, gas, insurance, and background checks for drivers. Seventy percent of the PATCH visits held in the past 12 months required PATCH supported transportation for the children.

Chillicothe Students Provide Activity Packs for PATCH Visits

The Chillicothe Hornet Helpers, a community-minded group of 4th and 5th graders from Central Elementary School in Chillicothe took action after hearing a program about PATCH at their school. They put together several activity packs for children who are visiting their mothers through PATCH at Chillicothe Correctional Center.



A Gift from the Heart

Honor someone special while helping children maintain connections with their mothers in prison. That's two gifts in one. Celebrate a special occasion by sending a gift to support the work of PATCH which strives to break the pattern of incarceration for families across Missouri. A note will be sent to the person being honored and the name will appear in the next issue of PATCHWORK.

Donation Form

Your name: _____

Address: _____

Address 2: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone number: _____

Amount of donation: _____

Donate in Honor or Memory of a Loved One

Please send gift card to: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address 2: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

In memory of _____

**PATCH is a 501(c)(3) classified
tax exempt organization.**

Remember PATCH in Your Estate Planning

Leave a legacy that will make a difference for children of incarcerated mothers. Consider including PATCH in your will or estate. Please call or email us for more information. We are happy to answer your questions.

Please return this form to: PATCH, P.O. Box 871, Chillicothe, MO 64601

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

_____ Please contact me.

To request information by email, contact 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 _____

Contact PATCH Director or Visit Coordinator at 1-800-284-0145 or director@chillicothepatch.org.

PATCH

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P.O. Box 871
Chillicothe, MO 64601

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Return Service Requested

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

The Beat ... News from PATCH

- ♥ **Welcome Mike Kemna**, Warden, newly appointed to Chillicothe Correctional Center.
- ♥ **PATCH was a participant** in a Lunch 'n Learn panel discussion on August 4th, sponsored by the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts in Clay County. The question was "Should a Child Visit His or Her Parent in Prison?"
- ♥ **PATCH exhibited** at several locations including the United Methodist Women district meeting in Moberly in April, the Methodist Annual Conference in June, Trivia Fundraiser for PATCH Bus Trip in St. Louis in July, and the Festival of Sharing in October.
- ♥ **Seventy-five** incarcerated mothers have completed PATCH parenting classes to date in 2010.
- ♥ **Former PATCH mom**, Vicky Williams, who had PATCH visits with her children in the PATCH trailer, was released from Chillicothe Correctional Center after 32 years on October 15.
- ♥ **New wooden toys** for the PATCH visiting rooms including a kitchen center, tabletop playhouse and train set were purchased with a contribution by the Trenton Wesley United Methodist Women and funds raised by the offender PATCH organization at their annual fundraiser.
- ♥ **United Methodist Women** collected basic supplies for PATCH visits and brought them to the annual conference in September.

