Eyes Open for the Little Things Compiled by Amy Rich

"Always keep your eyes open for the little task, because it is the little task that is important to Jesus Christ. The future of the Kingdom of God does not depend on the enthusiasm of this or that powerful person; those great ones are necessary too, but it is equally necessary to have a great number of little people who will do a little thing in the

 $service\ of\ Christ."-Albert\ Schweitzer$

They make endless pots of coffee. They take out trash cans full of cucumber pulp and green bean strings. They till and water the garden in the summer heat when no one else is outdoors to notice. They spend 45 minutes once a week explaining fractions to a child until his eyes light up and he understands. They sort the moldy bread out of our food shipment and restock the bread cart for the third time in one morning. They feed the fish in our fish tank and point out the tiny baby one to a child whose parent is waiting for food from the food pantry. They bandage a wounded leg for the third week in a row and



encourage a man to seek follow up treatment. They twist a bike tire rim back into shape, making it rideable again after a heavy impact with the curb.

They are Patchwork's staff and volunteers, and it is these little things that keep them returning day after day. Last year, their numbers included 9 staff members and over 175 volunteers, and they provided well over 12,000 little things for our guests at Patchwork. Perhaps it was an afternoon for a child in our after school program. Or a loaf of bread for someone who was hungry. Or directions to a nearby clothing bank. Or a shower for someone who is hot and tired of living outdoors. Or a bag of pet food so the pet's owner can save her money for food for herself.

Our staff and volunteers are part of Patchwork for many different reasons, but one thing they all have in common is care for the individuals and families that we serve. Here are some reflections on the topic from some of our volunteers:

Breanna Cox, Arts & Smarts volunteer, parent, and past participant: I grew up

in the Arts & Smarts program, and I had such great experiences. Some of my best childhood memories were here. I want my son Calvin [age 2] to experience it too.







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Patchwork Central Stitches 1

Eyes Open for the Little Things (con't)

Joni Kelley, Summer Arts & Smarts Kitchen Coordinator:

The two Art Garden Weeks every summer are the two weeks of the year that I set aside for me because I get so much out of working with the kids and everyone here. I probably get more out of it than the kids.

Becki Schmitt, Arts & Smarts Intern from Ivy Tech:

I tell other Ivy Tech students to go to Patchwork. It's so much fun you won't feel like you're doing school work. I love coming here to Patchwork Central because it's a place where you can have fun and feel like a kid again. You feel so welcomed and comfortable just being yourself.

Mary Damm, Health Ministry volunteer:

I am a retired nurse from Echo Health Care. In March, I started volunteering at Patchwork taking blood pressures, but mostly just talking to the clients who come in. I love these conversations. This is one of the most rewarding things I have ever done.

Amanda Aders, tutor from Signature School:

I have tutored at Patchwork for the last three years. I have had a blast helping the kids at Patchwork for the past few years.



As a kid, I always had my brother to help me with my homework, and I realize not every kid has that opportunity, and I am glad I have gotten to play that role that was so important in my life for other children. School and education is one of the most important things in people's lives, and getting to work with such a close-knit group of people who only want to assist in the education process and experience has been a blessing in my life.

Katherine Hitchcock, tutor from Signature School:

For two years, I have been privileged to play a small part in what I have come to know as one of Evansville's best institutions. During my junior and senior years of high school, Patchwork Central opened its doors to me as an after-school tutor. Through my weekly interactions with the employees, volunteers, parents, and students who compose the organization, I have seen just what can be done when so many selfless people come together. Through all of their outreach programs, Patchwork Central and those who make it possible contribute something invaluable to Evansville: the knowledge that there is an abundance of people here who care enough about their children, their fellow citizens, and their community to give up their time and energy.

Meryem Ozel, tutor from Signature School:

I have volunteered at Patchwork for two years. Tutoring at Patchwork is a unique experience, because helping students learn is just as important as building a relationship with them and understanding their backgrounds. During this time, I have also come to realize how complex the process of teaching is and that it requires much more than simply explaining concepts. I like to think that as I helped students with schoolwork, my own teaching skills also improved.

Pete Emery, volunteer Bike Shop Coordinator:

Recently retired from a job that required travel to places outside Evansville every week, I was faced with the delightful opportunity to get to know and enjoy my neighborhood, and, in turn, volunteer some of my time to make a contribution. I had no idea what sort of volunteer work I would be good at and would enjoy. So, I did what many people do...nothing! I don't think God was real happy with that.

It wasn't long before my next door neighbor (and volunteer at the Patchwork Central food pantry) began encouraging me to go to Patchwork Central and find out more about their bicycle shop and the possibility of re-starting the bicycle repair and recycling. Encouraging became urging and then turned to badgering, God's work, I am sure!

Continues on page 3

Eyes Open for the Little Things (con't)

I finally went to Patchwork Central, about 3 blocks from my house, toured the small bike shop and listened as the directors described the program that had existed in the past and their vision for the program going forward. As I pedaled my bike back home, I thought this is perfect!! I downloaded the volunteer application, completed it and returned it to Patchwork Central within a couple hours. You see, I didn't want to lose the opportunity to anyone else. I was excited. That was three and a half months ago, and I am still excited!

The Patchwork Central Bike shop is a busy place and it is getting busier every week. It is not just repairing a donated

bicycle and providing transportation to a man who just landed a job; it is also helping keep the bicycles adjusted and working well. Every week I have new ideas about how to get more donations and how to network with similar services in town.

Yes, this indeed is perfect. I am getting to know my neighborhood, and my neighborhood is getting to know me. Some call me "The Bike Man" and I kinda like that. I should have retired sooner!



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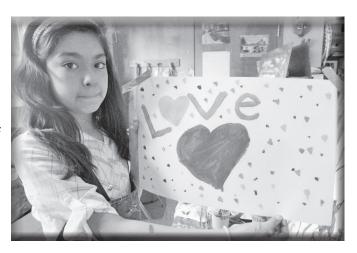
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*This list includes gifts received between 5/1/2014 and 6/30/15. We are very grateful for every donation we receive. While we have worked to assure that this list is correct, we apologize for any errors we may have made.



Bike Recycle Returns to Patchwork

Quietly the bike room in Patchwork's studio has been reorganized, tools found, and space cleared. Quietly we've begun to restore bikes to working order. Quietly a few have rolled out our doors with new owners who rely on them for transportation.

We're excited to provide this service to the community once more. Our past experience shows us that our guests' need for working bicycles is great and that the bikes are highly valued. For many, a bike is their primary transportation, and they are no longer able to get around town when that bike breaks or gets stolen.

Coordinating the Bike Shop is Pete Emery. Pete has already put in many volunteer hours organizing the bike shop and the bike program. Slowly the word has spread that there's a new bike guy, and our guests have approached us for help.

Shawn tells this story about one recent bike recipient: "We gave out our second bike last week to an older gentleman named Charles. Charles comes to Patchwork from time to time and always tells me about his fishing experiences. He loves to fish and often rides his bike to his favorite fishing spot. His bike was recently stolen, and he was no longer able to get there because the walk was too far. Pete was able to fix up a bike for Charles. He was very grateful for the bike, and Pete told him anytime that he needed any maintenance done on it to be sure and stop by the bike shop."

If you would like to support this program, the most helpful donations are money for bike parts and for utilities and other core expenses related to our studio/bike shop. We can accept a limited number of used bicycles. If you have a bike to donate, please call ahead to find out if we have space to accept it. Pete can also use help from volunteers who are experienced in bike repair. The Patchwork Bike Shop is open most Tuesday and Thursday mornings, though that schedule is subject to change depending on our other programming. For more information or to contact Pete, please call our main office.





6 Patchwork Central Stitches

More Stories! More Photos! More News!

Sign up for our bi-weekly e-newsletter! You will receive email updates highlighting the most recent happenings at Patchwork.

Simply visit our website, www.patchwork.org, and click the "join our mailing list" link!

Bequests

The next time you update your will, please consider adding Patchwork Central, Inc. as a beneficiary. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, Patchwork is eligible to receive donations from bequests. Any size of gift makes a big difference in providing for our programming and contributing to our long-term stability.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

The Patchwork Community meets for worship every Sunday at 5:15 p.m. at the Meetinghouse, 100 Washington Avenue, followed by a covered dish supper. All are welcome!









Patchwork Central, Inc.

100 Washington Ave. Evansville, IN 47713-1521 (812) 424-2735 www.patchwork.org

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Please be generous as you consider sending your cash contribution in the envelope provided for your convenience. Your generosity will help us continue the Patchwork tradition of providing these many creative programs.

PATCHWORK'S MISSION STATEMENT

Based in Evansville, Indiana, Patchwork Central, Inc creates community and encourages spiritual and social growth

by offering hospitality,

by providing opportunities for learning,

by fostering creativity and involvement in the arts, and

by working toward a more peaceful and just world.





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- More Stories! More Photos!
 - Patchwork
 - Bike Recycle Returns to
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- Thank You for Your Generous
- Eyes Open for the Little Things

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