

December 2010

# Patch works



## Give Your Best...

You've seen the headlines, read about the sharp rise in poverty, even seen the statistics.

But at The Cabbage Patch, those "statistics" have faces and names. And the impact of the current economy on their daily lives is profound.

For some children, it means going to bed hungry. For others it means redefining "home" to mean the place where someone takes you in – whether it is a grandparent, an aunt or uncle, or a friend.

For parents, it means struggling to survive on minimal wages from a part-time job, worrying about the very safety of their families or even foregoing critical medical treatments in order to provide for their children.

We recognize that many worthy organizations are seeking your support this year. But at The Patch we hold up the children and families we serve as THE reason to give and give generously.

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Inside this issue are first-hand accounts of how The Patch transforms lives. As evident in these stories, The Cabbage Patch is a place of stability and security, where such core values as hard work, integrity, faith and loving your neighbor as yourself are lived out daily. It is a place of hope, where the words, "You can!" echo through the halls.

Are times hard for The Patch? Of course. This year the organization is facing a \$300,000 deficit – and that is after freezing staff salaries for a second year and significantly trimming operating and program costs. But this budget

shortfall isn't the main reason The Cabbage Patch is asking for your increased support.

Your gift will help the over 1,200 at-risk children who are being served by The Patch this year alone – by providing the resources and most important the staff needed to challenge them, to teach them life-skills and to tell them over and over, "You are a beloved child of God. You matter."

For 100 years The Cabbage Patch has been serving those in need in the spirit of Christian love. Today, the Board of Directors continues to see the work as a sacred call, deserving "our" best effort – Board, staff and donors alike.

Answer the call. Give your best. The at-risk children and families of The Patch deserve nothing less.

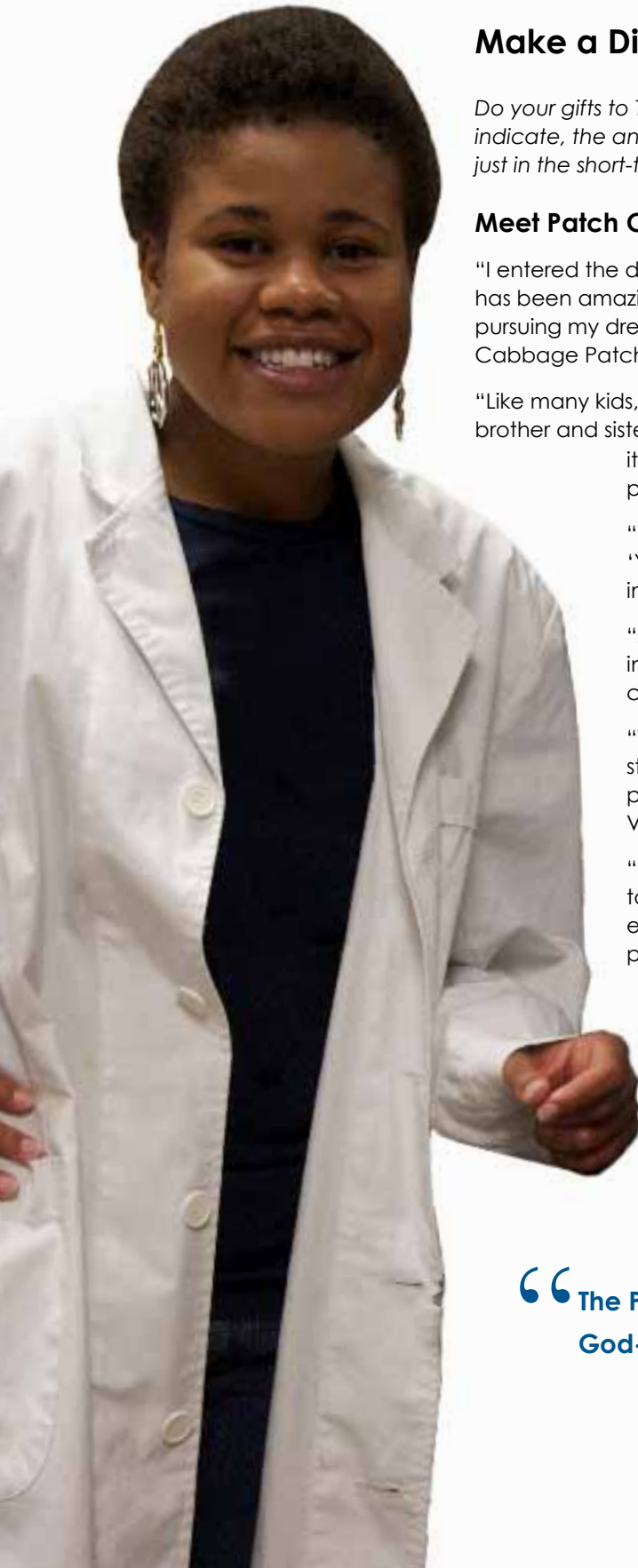
## Does Your Company Have a Matching-Gift Program?

You can significantly increase your gift to The Patch – in some cases double it – if your company has a Matching-Gift program. Please contact your human resources department to find out about your company's policy. In some instances, such as General Electric, the Matching-Gift program can apply to retirees as well as current employees.



# Patchworks

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## Make a Difference

*Do your gifts to The Cabbage Patch make a difference? As the following stories indicate, the answer is a resounding, "Yes!" They make a profound difference — not just in the short-term but over a lifetime as illustrated below.*

### Meet Patch College Scholar Nina Collins...

"I entered the doctoral program in chemistry at Vanderbilt University in August and it has been amazing. The courses are challenging, no question about it. But here I am pursuing my dream of being a college professor, thanks to a place called The Cabbage Patch.

"Like many kids, I started coming to The Patch in elementary school, along with my brother and sister. I was so shy and unsure of myself. But because of the wonderful staff, it wasn't long before I felt 'at home,' and safe. Soon I was running and playing and making friends — life long friends.

"Imagine the impact of hearing the words, 'You can,' again and again. 'You can pitch a tent, master algebra, go on a 100-mile canoe trip, improve your ACT score, go to college.' It changed my life.

"At The Patch I learned about determination and hard work. I participated in practically every program, stretching my horizons. I developed self-confidence and most important I learned to believe in myself.

"Thanks to a scholarship from The Patch and the emotional support of the staff, I attended Xavier University and graduated summa cum laude this past May. I applied and was accepted into the doctoral programs at Vanderbilt, Emory and Boston College.

"One of my college professors said in a lecture, 'Everyone needs someone to believe in them before they deserve it.' That is what The Patch does each day. It empowers individuals, like me, to live into their God-given potential. What a life-changing gift."

*[Nina is one of 19 students receiving scholarship aid from The Patch this academic year. Additionally 50 children on average attend Homework Helper each day, working toward the dream of a college education.]*

“The Patch empowers individuals, like me, to live into their God-given potential. What a life-changing gift.”



## Meet Businessman and Patch Alumnus Don Keeling...

"I grew up in Old Louisville and I know first-hand how The Cabbage Patch is the 'place to be' for kids from elementary school through high school. I was involved in any number of the programs that were offered and have many happy memories.

"The true value of the work of The Patch, however, is found not just in the games and sports, the camping and competitions, the creativity and the countless friendships formed. The true value is that The Cabbage Patch instills in each and every child who walks through its doors, a sense of their own worth and potential. The Cabbage Patch shows them how to believe in themselves.

"Several years ago I moved back to the neighborhood and have been able to witness how this same work continues today. The programs and services might be slightly different than when I attended, but the end results are the same — The Patch profoundly changes lives.

"I cannot think of an organization more deserving than The Cabbage Patch. It is not only a welcome neighbor, but a much needed asset to Old Louisville and to the entire city."

*[In addition to owning his own company, Edward J. Miller Insurance, Don is President of The St. James Court Association and this year, he was instrumental in The Patch being honored for its 100 years of service at The St. James Court Art Show Gala.]*



Patch alum Don Keeling reminisces with Sandy Richardson about old times on "The Big Red Truck" while looking at the recently installed timeline in the new building at The Patch.

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## **Make a Difference**

*The daily challenges that the at-risk children and families at The Cabbage Patch face are many and the hardships are real. But because of your generosity, their lives are being touched forever by the compassion, kindness, support and love that they experience at The Patch. Below is just a snapshot of some of their stories.*

### **A young girl who is being raised by her older sister...**

This girl's mother died suddenly of a heart attack and now her sister finds herself as both parent and provider. Thanks to The Patch this young girl has a place to go after school while her sister works and the staff is gently helping her deal with the grief of such a loss.

### **A Patch parent raising her own child as well as her sister's three...**

This mom refers to The Patch as "the other parent these kids don't have in their lives," as both her sister and her husband are battling drug addictions. All of the children are involved in The Patch's after-school programs and she is working closely with the case management staff to provide stability for this family.

### **Two boys who have recently been victims of bullying...**

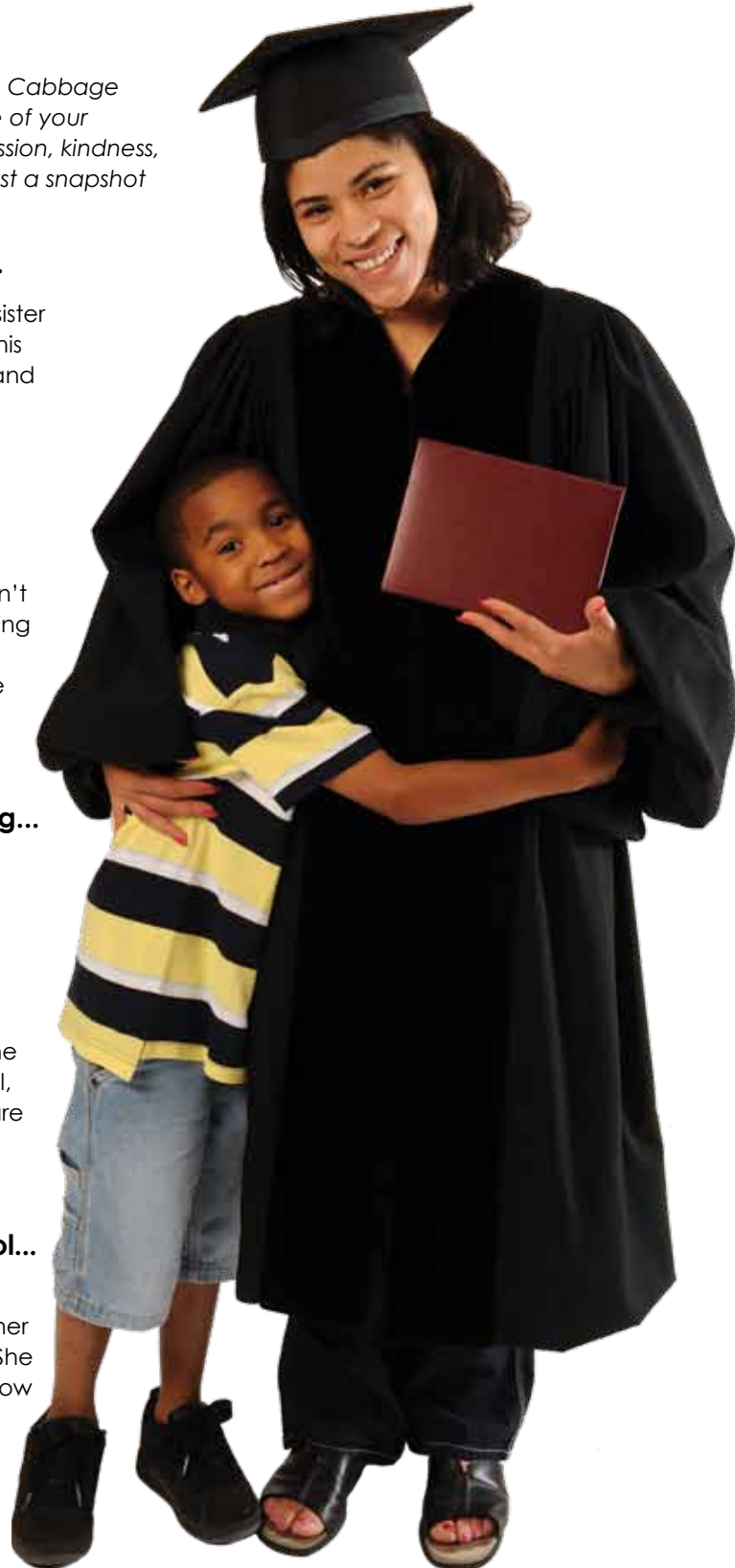
Both boys participate in The Patch's after school clubs and are learning to use words and not fists to respond to the bullies.

### **A child whose mother was recently incarcerated...**

This child is a regular at The Patch. Her grandmother relies on The Patch as a "safe place" for her grandchild to go to after school, knowing that she will find love and support and people who care deeply.

### **A single mom who just graduated from nursing school...**

"The idea of me going to college - no one ever told me I had potential. I could be more." Not only did the staff help this mother apply to college but they helped her find financial assistance. She recently graduated with an associates degree in nursing and now her children are talking about college too.





## A Toast to the Next 100 Years of Changing Lives...

On September 23, nearly 300 supporters and friends gathered at the Muhammad Ali Center for The Cabbage Patch Auction.

The bidding was lively and the choices were many from vacation homes in Utah, Maine and Nantucket to a full-length fur coat to a weekend of test driving some of the fastest cars in the world. Participants had the opportunity to invest in the Educational Opportunities and "College Scholars" programs and the response was overwhelming.

The evening also marked the official celebration of The Cabbage Patch's 100th birthday. Not only was The Patch honored to have **Brown-Forman** as Presenting Sponsor for this special event but the company's CEO, **Paul Varga**, made a heartfelt toast. The Cabbage Patch salutes Brown-Forman for its continued support of this event as well as recognizing the many other sponsors listed below. Also kudos to the Auction Committee, under the leadership of **Frances Scholtz**, and to the many volunteers.

Finally a big thank you to Kevin Harned of WAVE 3 who served as Master of Ceremonies and to Auctioneer Shaun Logsdon.

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### 100th Birthday Toast

By Brown Forman CEO, Paul Varga, Sept. 23, 2010

*Life can be hard, we all can concede.*

*An inevitable result: people of need.*

*The Cabbage Patch intervenes to interrupt the sorrow*

*They make the burden of today into a better tomorrow.*

*Inspired by Christ to help people cope,*

*They enrich people's lives and give people hope.*

*A very special place, which empowers our peers,*

*Invaluable to our community for now 100 years.*

*So a toast to The Cabbage Patch for all that you do:*

*Here's to the first 100 years and the next 100 too.*



**Our thanks to the following donors who made gifts to The Cabbage Patch Settlement House in honor or in memory of others. July 1 - September 30, 2010**

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in honor of the 55th wedding anniversary of Shirley & Cliff Alvey

(who met at The Cabbage Patch)

Shirley & Cliff Alvey

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**A Gift to Remember...**

This holiday season, remember special people in your life in an equally special way by making a donation to The Cabbage Patch in their honor. It's easy to do – just use the enclosed envelope or go on line [www.cabbagepatch.org](http://www.cabbagepatch.org).

“Remember special people in your life in an equally special way.”

Honorarium requests must be received by The Cabbage Patch no later than Friday, December 10 to ensure that recipients are notified before Christmas. A minimum donation of \$25 per honorarium is requested.

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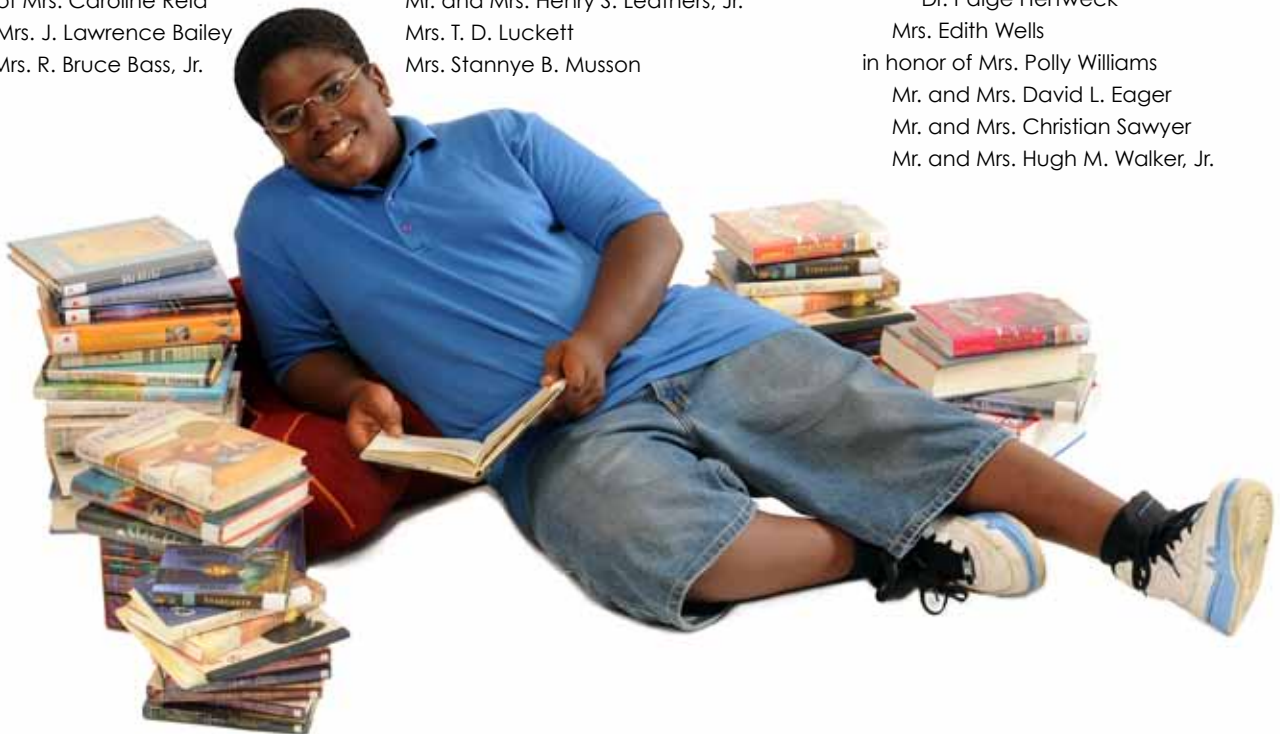
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in honor of Mrs. Polly Williams

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All gifts are deeply appreciated. If through an error any names were omitted, please accept our apology. Please contact us and let us know so that we can make the appropriate corrections.



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 CABBAGEPATCH.ORG  
 502.634.0811

The Cabbage Patch is a local charity meeting the needs of local at-risk children and families. Because The Cabbage Patch is not a Metro United Way agency and chooses not to participate in funding streams that can create dependency, such as government grants, we must rely on individual donors, like you, to finance our programs. **Won't you please help by giving generously?**

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## Give the Gift of Hope...

HOPE is a precious gift.

It isn't defined by circumstance or neighborhood or income or family. It is based on having someone believe in you.

Hope is seeing the future through the lens of limitless possibilities. It transforms lives, as evidenced by the stories in this newsletter.

This year, The Cabbage Patch is facing one of the greatest financial crises in its 100-year history. Investment income is down and so are individual donations. While the organization has limited reserves to meet the short-term crisis, if contributions do not increase The Patch will face potential cuts in both programming and staff — at a time when the needs of children and families are ever-increasing.

So in this, The Cabbage Patch's 100th year of serving the Louisville community, we ask you to **please consider not only renewing but increasing your financial support.** If you have not yet made a donation, please use the enclosed envelope or go online to [www.cabbagepatch.org](http://www.cabbagepatch.org) today. And if you have already made a donation, we thank you, and we humbly ask you to consider making an additional year-end gift.

In this season of Advent, as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child, may we be reminded that hope was born anew in that lowly stable, bringing light to all the world. Help The Patch bring that light to the at-risk children and families in need in our community.

**Please give generously today.** Give the gift of hope. Say to the child pictured here, and to all the other children at The Patch, "I believe in you."

