



"Extraordinary! One man I can look up to and respect," "Incredibly mind blowing and memorable," and "Incredibly inspiring, amazing human being, invaluable to hear him first hand" are among the words heard from participants after experiencing **Patch Adams**, the real person behind the hit movie *Patch Adams*, starring Robin Williams.

Patch is both a medical doctor and a clown, but he is also a social activist who has devoted 30 years to changing America's health care system, a system which he describes as expensive and elitist.

He believes that laughter, joy and creativity are an integral part of the healing process and therefore true health care must incorporate such life. Doctors and patients in his model relate to each other on the basis of mutual trust, and patients receive plenty of time from their doctors. Allopathic doctors and practitioners of alternative medicine will work side by side. If you think that all sounds like a utopian impossibility, it isn't. Patch and his colleagues practiced medicine at the Gesundheit Institute together in West Virginia that way for 12 years in what he calls their pilot project. They saw 15,000 patients. Patch Adams has devoted his life to the study of what makes people happy.

Through the success of this program at the Arlington, Virginia location, a model health care facility is being planned on 310 acres purchased in Pocahontas County, WV. The Institute will include a 40-bed hospital, a theater, arts and crafts shops, horticulture and vocational therapy. Over five years ago, Dr. Adams and staff temporarily stopped seeing patients so that they could coordinate plans for raising \$5 Million needed for the Institute's permanent and expanded home, a model health care community. Currently ...

## Testimonials

"A physician who demonstrates that laughter is the best medicine is not Hollywood sentimentality but a medical reality"

- Time Magazine.

"Simply said...Patch is a real man who inspires us all to better living"

- People Magazine.

### Patch Adams

#### Speech Topics

- ☐ Motivation
- ☐ Inspiration
- ☐ Humor
- ☐ Healthcare
- ☐ Experiential
- ☐ Celebrity

