

Camp to Belong-Georgia Spring Report

JANUARY-MAY 2021



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Campers Served this Quarter



The measure of success for Camp to Belong-Georgia in 2020 and 2021 is serving separated siblings in whatever way possible.

The name of the game is adaptability. In 2020, our annual overnight summer camp was reformatted into individual Virtual Summer Family Camps with care packages sent to our campers for the events. We planned to have an in-person Fall Camp Day, but because conditions had not improved, we were forced to move this event to the Spring and held Virtual Holiday Parties to continue to serve our campers. Care packages were sent out for this event and included cookie decorating kits, T-shirts, supplies for chosen activities, wrapped gifts that were chosen by a sibling and a “Virtual Hug” that each child made for a sibling by outlining their hands and connecting them with string.

As we looked into 2021, we planned to have our rescheduled Fall Camp Day, to be held as an in-person Spring Carnival. This is where many of you so generously joined us in our mission, supporting this event. As we looked to the Spring, there was still much uncertainty regarding the safety of holding in-person events, causing the Board of Directors to decide to hold our Spring event as individual virtual parties.

We again joined campers for a two-hour party and sent care packages that included a cactus grow kit with paint markers to decorate the pot; props, twine and mini clothes pins to hang up the photos that were sent to them from our virtual photo booth; surprise egg with candy and toys wrapped in saran wrap around an Easter egg; dice for our dice game; and LEGO sets to complete together during the party. While we were disappointed to not hold an in-person event, we are happy to report to you that we were able to serve 30 children through these events. These 30 children were all children who had been served through our 2020 virtual events, with this event being the second, third and even fourth virtual event that some of the children had attended.

30

children served

—

7

sibling sets

—

71

HOURS

served by
volunteers

Where do we go from here?



A sibling group enjoys their third virtual event in the past year at our Spring Virtual Parties

The continuity of service that we were able to achieve through this event is a great success and a testimony of the power of our year-round events. Some of the children served at this event are still not able to do in-person events due to issues of health, placement and transportation, so even as some things are returning back to "normal" there is still great value in offering virtual events.

As we look to the rest of 2021, we are pleased to report to you our events for the coming year:

- **Summer Day Camp- Signature Event Day-June 26- Clinton Park (Winston, GA) and July 17- Swift Cantrell Park (Kennesaw, GA)**-Our Annual Camp To Belong Birthday Party where siblings will have the opportunity to enjoy birthday cake, exchange gifts, and celebrate their birthdays together, in addition to an Art Expression-Sibling exchange craft project.
- **Virtual Life Seminar Event (Career Preparation, Money Management and Communication Skills)- August 7, 1-3 pm** Virtual Zoom group activity with all sibling sets. Campers will be divided into age appropriate activities for part of the event and come back together as a large group.
- **Summer Day Camp-Camp Twin Lakes Day (Rutledge, GA)- August 22nd**-A Sunday afternoon where our campers can enjoy a few of the

typical outdoor summer camp activities that they would participate in if we were able to have our regular summer camp, hosted by our partner Camp Twin Lakes.

- **Family Fall Camp Day-Saturday, September September 11th 11-3 pm**- Our campers and their family members are invited to participate in activities at Clinton Nature Preserve Park in Winston, GA.
- **Holiday Party Weekend Camp December 10-12**- Join us for our second annual Holiday Parties, to be held as our **FIRST overnight weekend camp!!** Campers will be bussed to Camp Twin Lakes in Rutledge and spend a weekend together with their separated siblings to celebrate the holidays! Brothers and sisters will choose a holiday gift for a sibling, decorate cookies and sit around the fire to roast s'mores and create memories together.

Thank you again for your generosity and your belief in us during this time. We look forward to 2022 when we will hold out Overnight Summer Camp AND all these year-round events for our kids! Your support has given us what we needed to create and support these new programs that will continue to serve our children in the future!



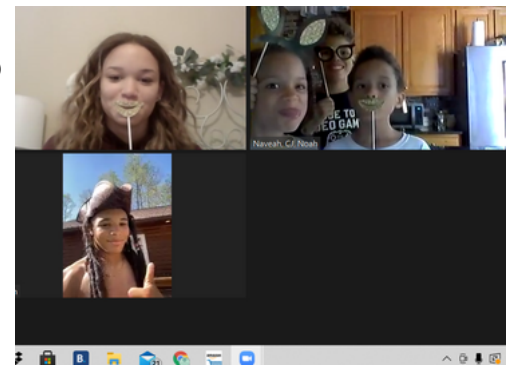
Two of our former campers have now become counselors and attended our First Summer Day Camp with their younger brother.

How can you be involved?



Summer Day Camps are currently underway, serving children in-person for the first time in TWO years. Here are ways for you to be involved in the coming months!!

- It is not too late to sign up to **VOLUNTEER** for one of our events this summer. Visit our website to complete an application!
- Hold a **SUPPLY OR GIFT DRIVE** for our Fall Camp Day or Holiday Party Weekend Camp- a webpage will be created for your drive to create a visual inventory for people to choose from!
- Do you know any sibling separated by foster care, divorce, or other life circumstances? We want to serve ALL separated siblings, no matter the reason. **COMPLETE A CAMPER APPLICATION** on our website.
- We now have **MONTHLY OR ROUND-UP DONATION** options on our website. We would love to have you serve at an event, but if that is not possible, we would love your support as we look to a 2022 with Overnight Summer Camp AND Year-round Sibling Connections Events.



THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF THE EXPANSION OF OUR PROGRAMMING!!

A big thank you to our 2021 supporters

- Camp Twin Lakes
- Catholic Foundation of North Georgia
- ESI- Annual Mike Stevenson Memorial Golf Tournament
- Ticket to Dream Funds
- St. Jude the Apostle School
- Central Georgia EMC Foundation
- Atlanta Rotary Club Youth Services Fund
- Coweta-Fayette Trust, Inc. EMC
- Waffle House Foundation
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