

# Camp to Belong-Georgia

## Summer Report

JUNE-AUGUST 2021



+1 770-296-5070  
executivedirector@camptobelong-ga.org  
www.camptobelong-ga.org

Camp to Belong-Georgia  
286 Gladys Lane  
Young Harris, GA 30582

# Connecting Siblings... One Day at a Time



## Summer Day Camps

While there was disappointment this year over not being able to have an overnight summer camp, we were SO excited to get to see our campers in-person, for the first time in two years. And our events did not disappoint! For some of our campers, this was the first time they had been together in-person since the beginning of the pandemic. These day camps gave families a safe environment to bring their children to see their separated siblings.

Twenty-four children attended our Birthday Party Day Camps, where campers exchanged gifts with each other and sang Happy Birthday over cakes decorated with personalized names and lots of icing! Campers also had their photos taken together and they decorated frames for each other with their sibling photo. The day also included nature hikes, lunch and water balloon fun.



Two sets of separated sisters decorate frames with words and images special to them. One set of sisters wrote "Sisters by chance, friends by choice" on the back of the picture frames they made for each other with a photo from their time together at camp. These picture frames are just one way that they can keep the memories of these events alive even after they leave.

The Birthday Party is a well-loved event at Summer camp. We digitalized it this year, having campers choose their sibling's gift from our online "shop," with wrapped gifts delivered to the party. Two brothers, who had participated in three virtual events between Summer of 2020 and Spring of 2021 came together at our second Day Camp this summer. During virtual events throughout the year, they often chose LEGO activities, racing in their separate locations to complete matching LEGO sets. As they came together in-person for our event, they had chosen LEGO sets for each other as birthday gifts. While other campers ran around with water balloons, these two brothers sat next to each other, tirelessly putting together their LEGO sets *together* this time.



As always, we sang happy birthday to our campers, although we did opt-out on blowing out candles on our cakes. Cakes were decorated with puzzle piece-shaped chocolates with their names written on the pieces.



Campers select gifts for a sibling at the party. Campers are always excited to see how they like their gift!!

# Campers Served this Quarter



Campers participated in a new activity of wood burning at Camp Twin Lakes.



Waterballoon fight!

For most of our campers, this was not the end of the memories made with their siblings this summer. Of these 24 campers, 14 came back to attend our Camp Twin Lakes Day Camp, joined by three campers from past summers. Campers participated in miniature golf, archery, other outdoor sports and a wood-burning craft. This was the first time our campers had the chance to see the Rutledge location of Camp Twin Lakes, where we will hold camp from now on. As campers and volunteers moved between activities, there was excitement about our Holiday Weekend Camp, when campers will get to stay overnight for the next event.

We are grateful to all the individuals, foundations and fundraisers who made these events possible. While we missed having our overnight summer camp, the ability to bring together 24 kids for day events, and 14 of them for two events, in two months, was a great success, and one we will look to continue even after our overnight summer camp is back.

## Join us for our upcoming fundraisers!

It's that time again!!! Join us in some fun events that also raise money for our separated siblings!! Look on our website for more details: [www.camptobelong-ga.org](http://www.camptobelong-ga.org)

- *Sunday, October 3- Camp Twin Lakes Spin for Kids*--- bike ride at Camp Twin Lakes OR....ride from home!!!! Check out our website for more details on how to ride or sponsor a rider!!
- *Friday, October 22- Engineering Systems, Inc. (ESI) presents the Mike Stevenson Memorial Golf Tournament* at Chateau Elan in Braselton, Georgia. Players will honor the memory of former Board Chair and ESI CEO Mike Stevenson while enjoying an afternoon of fun, food and golf at one of Georgia's top courses. Opportunities are available to become a sponsor or volunteer at the event. Players can also purchase raffle tickets for a weekend trip to St. Mary's, a night's stay in Atlanta, a dinner for six, and other great prizes!

41  
times children  
served

10

sibling sets

165

HOURS  
served by  
volunteers

# How can you be involved?



## **Winter Holiday Family Camp is December 10-12! Campers will attend camp with their families and make memories with their separated siblings!**

- 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 for this event, and our 2022 programming with Overnight Summer Camp AND Year-round Sibling Connections Events.
- Do you know any siblings 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.
- Hold a **SUPPLY OR GIFT DRIVE** for our Holiday Party Weekend Camp- a webpage will be created for your drive to create a visual inventory for people to choose from! Campers are choosing gifts for their siblings and you can sponsor the gifts for a sibling set!!
- It's not too late to sign up to **VOLUNTEER** for our Holiday Winter Camps. Visit our website to complete an application!



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

## **A big thank you to our 2021 supporters**

- ESI- Annual Mike Stevenson Memorial Golf Tournament
- Alan Redding
- Camp Twin Lakes Spin for Kids
- St. Jude the Apostle School
- My Abuelas Gives Back
- Nora's First Birthday Fundraiser
- Head in the Sky Art Show
- Atlanta Rotary Club Youth Services Fund
- Waffle House Foundation
- Charlie's Heart Foundation
- John and Mary Franklin Foundation
- Frances Wood Wilson Foundation
- Allsworth Financial
- Catholic Foundation of North GA
- Ticket to Dream Funds
- Central Georgia EMC Foundation
- Coweta-Fayette Trust, Inc. EMC
- Lois & Lucy Lampkin Foundation
- Jackson EMC Foundation
- Publix Charities
- Cobb EMC Community Foundation
- GAWL Foundation
- GreyStone Power Corporation EMC
- Atlanta Motor Speedway Foundation
- Nordson Foundation
- The Kirby Smart Family Foundation, a donor advised fund administered by the Athens Area Community Foundation