



# SUMMER NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2024

## Still Making Sibling Connections

2024 brought about the exciting news that after 15 years of operating as Camp to Belong-Georgia, we would now operate as Siblings Forever. With the new name came a continued mission of serving separated siblings, but also an expansion of our programming to include Family Connections that served a wider range of children in foster and adoptive care affected by sibling separation. And now we also serve their families, a key component in ensuring that sibling connection happens outside of just our summer camp and events. We have added "individual" Family Connections where siblings can choose from a list of options for a personalized event.

At our August 24th event, we have sibling sets signed up with encouraging stories of connection--some fighting life threatening illnesses, but making the commitment to spend time with a sibling. Others who went a year



without seeing each other in between our 2023 and 2024 summer camps, but now attending this event--doubling the number of times they will see each other this year, with even more events to come! And another sibling who did not want to attend summer camp with his brother and sister, but will now attend a Braves game with them. This is what you are a part of in the Siblings Forever family and there is more to come!

## Fall 2024 Family Connections Events

- ★ AUGUST 24TH  
INDIVIDUAL SIBLING SET FAMILY CONNECTIONS
- ★ SEPTEMBER 21  
SIBLINGS GIVE BACK DAY EVENT
- ★ NOVEMBER 1-3  
FAMILY WEEKEND CAMP

SIBLINGS FOREVER

# Serving after being served...

At our 2024 Summer camp, we had siblings attending for the first time, and siblings attending for their fifth time, in addition to former campers from past camps as far back as 2010! The smiles and love at camp made all the hard work worth it for our volunteers who gave a week of their lives to serve our separated siblings.

Not only did we have 57 separated siblings attend camp this year, we also had nine former campers come back as volunteers for our 2024 summer camp. Some of these volunteers attended with younger siblings, while others were campers 14 years ago and came just to serve kids going through life experiences that they themselves had experienced.

*"I love how funny you are and how cool you are. You are a fantastic brother."*

**2024 CAMPER**

While this approach can cause challenges along the way, as we find better ways to support those who are now adults in learning to be leaders, these counselors connected with campers in special ways and served as an example to our current campers. In this way the Siblings Forever family doesn't just exist when our campers are children; it continues on as they become adults and have families of their own!





AUGUST 2024



## MY STORY: FROM CAMPER TO COUNSELOR

**KATIE NOWELL**

2019 was my first year going to summer camp. Little did I know the HUGE impact it would have on the rest of my summers. Since 2019, I have been to camp four years in a row and this past year as a counselor due to aging out. My siblings and I live over four hours apart, so camp is the one place we can really all be together for a long amount of time. From kayaking to horseback, there isn't a thing I would change about camp and the time I get to spend with my siblings.



"This is my first year as a counselor. I came here as a camper 14 years ago with all of my siblings. It has been so wonderful to be here as your counselor. Don't let life control you. You control your life. I hope to come back next year and bring my siblings as counselors."

**AJ WASHINGTON**

# SUPPORTING OUR CAUSE

AUGUST 2024

## Ways to be involved

- Volunteer at one of our upcoming Family Connections
- Sponsor an event or gifts for our holiday camp
- Sign up a sibling set for an event
- Become a monthly or one-time giver



## Fall Fundraisers!

- ★ CAMP TWIN LAKES SPIN FOR KIDS- SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH- SUPPORT OR RIDE FOR OUR TEAM!
- ★ ESI- ANNUAL MIKE STEVENSON MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT- FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4 AT BEAR'S BEST- BE A SPONSOR; GOLF AT THE EVENT; OR VOLUNTEER!

## Thank you to our sponsors

- ESI- Annual Mike Stevenson Memorial Golf Tournament
- Golf Tournament Sponsors
- Camp Twin Lakes in-kind donation and Spin for Kids fundraiser
- Siblings Forever Birthday Fundraiser donors (including matching sponsor, BluRoof Residential & Commercial Roofing)
- LocumTenens.com Foundation
- Atlanta Rotary Club Youth Services Fund
- Frances Wood Wilson Foundation
- The Kirby Smart Family Foundation  
a donor advised fund administered by the Athens Area Community Foundation
- Coweta-Fayette Trust, Inc. EMC
- GreyStone Power Corporation EMC
- Jackson EMC Foundation
- Walton Electric Trust, Inc.
- Central Georgia EMC Foundation
- Cobb EMC Foundation
- Lois & Lucy Lampkin Foundation
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