

## Camp To Belong—Georgia Newsletter

" I don't get to see my brother that much but that doesn't mean he doesn't mean much to me. We have been through so much together and I love him and miss him a lot. I'm glad I have this chance to see him.

- 2017 Camp To Belong—Georgia camper



#### OUR MISSION

Reuniting brothers and sisters placed in separate foster homes and other out of home care, creating a lifetime of shared memories through the summer camp experience and other sibling connection events.



"I learned so much about my brother this week. He is starting to get older and we have so much in common!

- 2017 camper

### 10 YEARS STRONG!

"I have an amazing little sister and we had a great time this week. I love her more than words can tell. No matter how far apart we are or how long we stay apart we will always be together."

Camp To Belong—Georgia proudly celebrated 10 years of reuniting siblings this summer! From June 11-16, Camp Twin Lakes in Warm Springs, Georgia was "home" to 74 brothers and sisters from 26 families, all with at least one thing in common — separation from one or more of their siblings in foster care or other out of home care.

Led and encouraged by over 60 volunteers, Camp Twin Lakes became an "Animal Kingdom" as the theme for the week focused on animals and the positive traits we can all learn from them. A lion represented "courage"; a dolphin portrayed "inspiration"; an owl commanded "respect"; a wolf represented "equality" and a penguin was the figure for "determination". Each day a different animal was the focus as we learned more about their positive traits and how we can incorporate them into our lives...starting with the interactions at Camp To Belong with siblings and fellow campers! At the end of each day, campers were able to share kind words about each other and post them to the





"The last time I saw my sister and brother was last year at this camp. That was the first time I ever saw them and I haven't seen them since then. No matter how far it is or how long it takes I will be there for them."



Happy 10 year anniversary Camp To Belong—Georgia! Founding board members celebrate with Lynn Price, founder, Camp To Belong (yellow shirt)!

#### CAMP TO BELONG—GEORGIA JUNE 11-16, 2017

THANKS SO MUCH! She had such a great time and was so happy when I got her back today. She talked non-stop for the entire one hour ride home. She loved the huge swimming pool and all the other activities and was so proud of the gifts that she had gotten at the birthday party event.

- Foster parent of 2017 camper



The Camp To Belong –Georgia Birthday Party Celebration has been a camp tradition since our first camp in 2008. This event provides a chance for the campers to honor their brothers and sisters. Siblings shop for each other during the day in the "camp birthday store," wrap presents, and design handmade birthday cards with heartfelt wishes to give each other during the party. Each family has a birthday cake and they have an opportunity to celebrate what they may have missed during the year.

Camp To Belong—Georgia is full of many other events all specially designed to bring siblings closer to each other with opportunities to create special memoires!



"My brother is my twin which means he is the other half of me. He is my backbone. He has been the best that I have. We had a lot of fun this week."



"This is my 2nd year at Camp To Belong and just like last year I had a blast! I love seeing all the siblings and getting to know them more and more each day! It feels great being able to make an impact on their life and to help some who are not as close to their siblings."

- 2017 Camp Counselor





"My brother is two years older than me. He's been in foster care since he was five. I never learned so much about my brother as I did this week. Normally we only get to see each other for three hours a week."



"I haven't seen my siblings for more than a few minutes at a time for 9 years. My siblings and I weren't raised together through no fault of our own. It is so wonderful to be together."



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# Summer Camp 2018 DATES TBA Camp Twin Lakes, Warm Springs, GA

In addition to our Summer Camp Program, we connect separated siblings through year-round Sibling Connection Events. These events can be as small as one sibling group or larger depending on need and include a fun outing for the group supervised by CTB-GA counselors or board members. Please contact us to learn more about this opportunity!

# Many Thanks to Our 2017 Sponsors

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