

S'more Sibling News

Welcome to Camp Season 2011!

Karyn Schimmels – Board Chair

Dear Camp To Belong Friends & Family:

Welcome to Spring and the 2011 Camp To Belong season! It is exciting to know that very soon, we will begin the adventure of serving so many deserving youth across the nation through Camp To Belong and hundreds of loving hearts.

Now entering our 17th year, Camp To Belong can proudly say we have made a powerful and positive difference for thousands of these siblings across the nation. We have provided opportunities for coming together. For connection. For quality time with family. For playing and exploring the outdoors with one another. Together, our siblings experience a carefully planned week of adventure that makes an impact that can last a lifetime.

Since 1995, we have grown from one member camp to nine member camps! Our roots have grown deeper and our impact is growing wider. For 2011, it is our goal to serve 1000 siblings! We wish to introduce and welcome our newest camp member, New York, thanks to the hard work of Joanne Trinkle from Parsons Child and Family Center in Albany, New York.

We hope you enjoy the stories from our campers about what Camp To Belong means to them. From each of us at Camp To Belong, thank you to all of our volunteers and donors who make it possible for siblings to reunite!

Camp To Belong Member Camps Come Together!

Member camps from the U.S. and Australia attended the CTB Annual Meeting held in Phoenix in January 2011. For two days member camps shared best practices, learned innovative and new ideas on volunteer training and did lots of valuable networking. The highlight of the conference included our keynote speaker, CTB Founder Lynn Price, who inspired the entire membership and reminded us all why we do what we do—**GIVE SIBLINGS THEIR RIGHT TO REUNITE!!!**



*Kendra Turcotte, Karyn Schimmels,
Joanne Trinkle CTB-NY*



CTB – Maine

My camp experience was going to a camp where I can be with my sibling for a whole week. I love how I could wake up and my sister was right next to me and how I could have meals with her and just hang out. I love the family groups where we got to have a big family with wonderful staff, people and kids we don't even know. Camp To Belong felt like home away from home and I would love to continue to go there.

–Emma, Camper



CTB – Nevada

While at camp I realized for the first time in two years what a family felt like. The feelings I get when I think of the memories for which I have been blessed—such as my youngest sister Belauna opening her Easy-Bake Oven during the birthday party, and the ones I will receive in the future—make my eyes swell with tears. In such a harsh world where family is the only object that can be relied on, living without siblings when you know you have them is hard. But, thanks to Child Focus life in separation isn't as hard.

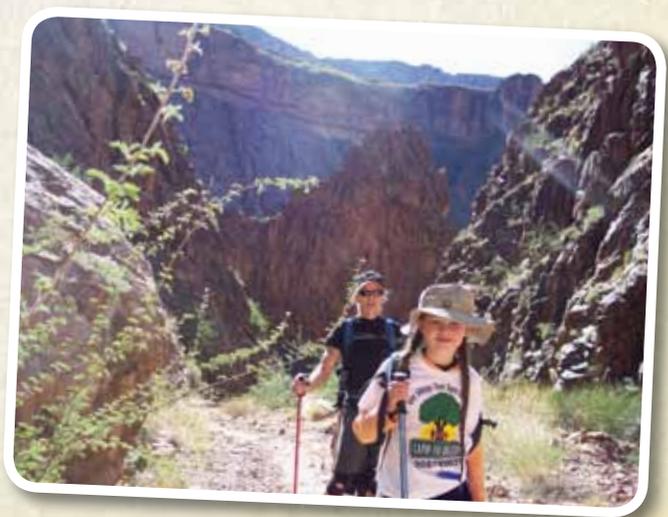
–Fayth, Camper, who for the past four years has had to live a life separated from her five younger siblings. She first attended Camp To Belong Nevada in 2009.



CTB – Northwest

I was a camper for two years at CTB Northwest. The emotion and compassion I experienced at your camp is something I could never forget. I was satisfied just getting to sleep in the same cabin with my sisters for a couple of nights, but your camp takes it beyond that. Every camper walks off the bus at the beginning of the week, feeling unsure or not wanting to be there because they think CTB will be lame. I know that because that's how I started camp my first year. But at that opening night camp fire, I realized I wasn't so alone and never would be again. I made some true friends at CTB and I still talk to them today. The bed bug song, the "often imitated but never duplicated" CTB fashion shows, and the laughs make me smile and give me hope. The impact all the volunteer counselors put on children's lives' still amazes me, and you are looked up to at camp more than I think you know. Thanks for showing kids who are separated that they are not alone. I hope to see you and all of CTB again in the future as a camper, counselor or a possible leader like you.

–Mia, Camper



CTB – Georgia

My experience at Camp To Belong has been amazing! The activities help us in many ways. For instance, when we make pillows and blankets for one another, we get to explain our feelings, and we get to show the love that we feel in our hearts for our siblings. Most of us find new friends, and even the counselors start to feel like family. I will continue to go to camp until I can't go any longer. At camp, I bond with my sibling, other siblings, and I end up with a whole new family.

–Camper



CTB – Washington

I have attended Camp To Belong Washington as a foster child for two years in a row. This camp is a great place to reunite with my siblings and just have a blast with them. I think the best part about camp is the great activities you get to enjoy doing. One of my favorites is swimming and jumping into the lake water. It is so much fun! It is great because you get to spend time with your siblings in a very fun way. It means so much to me and other kids to just see our brother's and sister's faces and know they still want to be with you and love you. I love the food they provide in this camp. You enjoy getting up in the morning, sitting with your siblings and eating fresh, yummy pancakes! I also love singing songs in this camp. My favorite song is the one when we thank all the staff for the food they made us! Overall my experience at Camp To Belong Washington was amazing and filled my heart with joy!

–Annah, Camper



CTB – Massachussets

Camp To Belong-MA was a chance for me to spend time with my siblings. It was an experience I will never forget. For an entire week I don't have to worry about social workers or foster homes. I don't have to feel misunderstood or out of place about my situation, because there are others who can say "I understand what you're going through". At Camp To Belong-MA we are all going through the same struggle. I can talk to another "foster child" and exchange stories and opinions on our situations. For once in my life I felt like I was not the only one going through it. I can spend the day with my siblings while doing fun activities together. If I was afraid of rock climbing, my siblings are there to say "you can do it". Camp To Belong is a chance to be a kid again and enjoy life just like we should—it is almost like a home away from "home." That is what Camp To Belong means to me, and I'm very grateful to be a part of it.

–Yarista, Camper



We Need YOU!

The goal of a Camp To Belong in every state and beyond requires each of us to pick up a stone, hurl it with all our might and start a ripple in each of our communities. Hundreds of volunteers and donors are doing this already. But with your help, we can make an even bigger splash for siblings everywhere.

Are you ready to dive in? Then volunteer, donate or contact us at Camp To Belong headquarters today! To learn more, visit camptobelong.org.

Camp To Belong 2011 Camp Dates:

CAMP TO BELONG-GEORGIA

June 19-24, 2011
Camp Twin Lakes in GA.

CAMP TO BELONG-NORTHWEST/OREGON

June 20-25, 2011
Camp Silver Falls, Salem, OR.

CAMP TO BELONG-NEVADA

June 26-July 1, 2011
Pathfinder Ranch, Mountain Center, CA.

CAMP TO BELONG-ORANGE COUNTY

July 25-30, 2011
Outdoor Education Center, Irvine, CA.

CAMP TO BELONG-NORTHWEST/WASHINGTON

August 15-20, 2011
Miracle Ranch Camp, Port Orchard, WA.

CAMP TO BELONG-MAINE

August 16-21, 2011
Camp Wigwam, Waterford, ME.

CAMP TO BELONG-MASSACHUSETTS

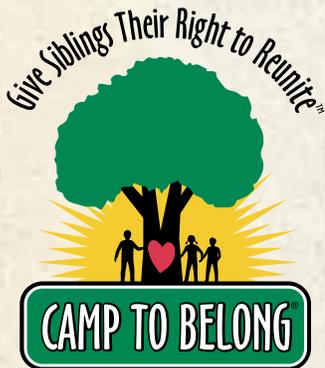
August 22-27, 2011
Camp Taconic, Hinsdale, MA.

CAMP TO BELONG-NEW YORK

August 28-September 2, 2011
Camp Chingachook, Lake George, NY.

CAMP TO BELONG-AUSTRALIA

September & October, 2011
Queensland



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Please make check payable to **Camp To Belong** and mail to: P.O. Box 1146, Marana, AZ 85653.

Contributions are tax deductible according to IRS guidelines. For more information, please call 1-888-7-BELONG.