

S'more Sibling News



Penthea Burns

For Camp To Belong (CTB), there is much to celebrate this year and even more exciting events ahead. Thanks to the strong network of supporters for CTB International and each of our member camps, we hosted nine camp sessions in 2012 and impacted the lives of nearly 900 brothers and sisters. Camper surveys, now containing 3 years of data, tell us that campers leave with special memories of time spent with their siblings—memories that many of our youth would not have if not for Camp To Belong. That knowledge fuels our commitment and planning to support and expand our camp network, so that more siblings can cherish those same memories and strengthen their lifelong relationships.

As we look towards another fantastic summer camp season in 2013, we can see that the roots of Camp To Belong are deep, our branches far reaching and our growth potential strong. This year, that growth starts from within. As we know, Camp To Belong operated for many years (1997-2006) in Colorado under Founder Lynn Price's leadership. So it is with great pride that CTB now celebrates the re-opening of CTB-Colorado in 2013, thanks to the hard work of long time volunteers and sisters, Charlie and Sam Lippolis, and their outstanding leadership team.

In other great news, we know that Lynn Price first launched CTB in Nevada in 1995. Then in 2006, CTB-Nevada re-opened and has since served more than 500 campers. Considering that history, we are very proud to share that St. Jude's Ranch, the parent organization for CTB-Nevada, now has plans to bring Camp To Belong to Texas in 2014!

With such growth on the immediate horizon, CTB-International must expand to successfully support and promote this growth. We are so pleased to announce that we will hire a Program Manager in 2013 to ensure that CTB can continue to provide resources and develop programming for our member camps.

In 2015, we will be reporting the success of our 11 (or more) member camps as we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Camp To Belong! You'll read more in this newsletter about the events planned to celebrate 20 years of CTB, and we hope you will stand beside us in celebration. 20 years! Please know that we would never be celebrating this landmark without the support from and active involvement of people like you.

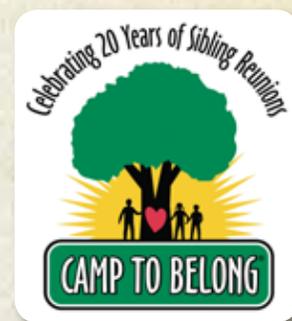
Do you remember when you first heard of Camp To Belong? Do you remember what that inspired in you? I do. In 2000, I first heard of CTB from a youth leader in Maine's foster care system. She, like thousands of others youth in care, experienced that "hole in her heart" because of a separation from her sibling. Her hope was renewed by Camp To Belong. She passed that inspiration on and in 2004, CTB-Maine was born. I know firsthand what kind of difference CTB makes for brothers and sisters. And I want to make sure that opportunity exists for more of our children. Help us do more for brothers and sisters—please support Camp To Belong. Thank you for all you do to help Give Siblings Their Right to Reunite™.

Penthea Burns
Board Chair



CAMP TO BELONG TURNS 20!

It seems like yesterday when Lynn Price, founder of CTB, held the first camp at a dorm at UNLV in Las Vegas. The campfire was made of tissue paper and fake logs and firefighters from the local area came out to educate and entertain our kids. That was in 1995. In 2015, Camp To Belong will celebrate our 20th Anniversary—20 years of reuniting siblings who will number nearly 10,000 by that milestone! Our siblings have come back to serve as counselors at camp, gone on to advocate for legislative changes in states across the country and serve in professions that assist children living in care.



Our Board and an active 20th Anniversary Committee are planning several events to celebrate and raise awareness of the issue of separate siblings in foster care. On January 17-18, 2015, we will hold a “Thank You” event for CTB volunteers, donors and family where we started—Las Vegas, Nevada. Then on May 2, 2015, member camps across the country will participate with CTB-International in a national “Camp-A-Thon,” where families can come out to enjoy the outdoors for a day and participate in some of the activities that our campers do at a CTB.

The traditional symbol for a 20th year anniversary is platinum due to its strong and enduring nature. We think that is perfect analogy for CTB and all that we do to reunite siblings!

CTB – WASHINGTON

Siblings Kimmy and Kyler were inseparable throughout the week of camp. Whether they were working with their team, building a cardboard boat to race across the lake, or just hanging out during activities, they were often smiling and hugging each other. Shortly following camp, we were contacted by Kimmy’s SW team and asked to participate in her adoption placement meeting because she had requested to have her CTB “family” there. This facilitated a conversation about keeping her connected to Kyler. Recently we spoke with her new family, and she is seeing Kyler regularly now. What a positive impact for these siblings!



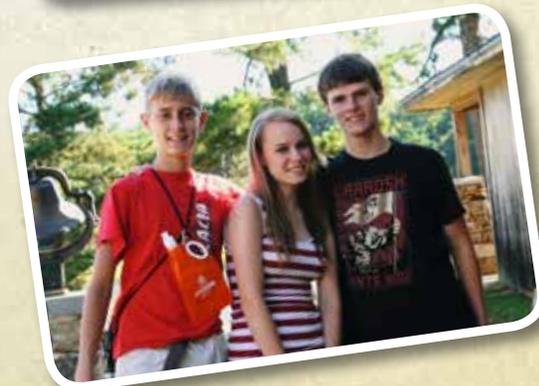
CTB – COLORADO

Camp To Belong is thrilled to return to Colorado in 2013! For years, Colorado hosted CTB campers and counselors from across the United States and the world as the “training camp” for CTB’s expansion. Now CTB is returning to the Rocky Mountains to serve our own Colorado siblings as a member camp! Leading the charge are Charlie and Sam Lippolis (pictured), sisters who understand the sibling connection. Partnering with the YMCA Camp Santa Maria, we will bring 75 siblings together August 12-17, 2013. Counselor training starts August 9th, and we can’t wait to bring together our long-time CO veterans and our new team members to create the magic that is Camp To Belong!



CTB – GEORGIA

Amy and Chad have attended CTB-GA for the past 4 years. Each year they felt a piece of them was missing. They had no contact with their brother, Jake, in many years despite him living nearby. In 2012, CTB-GA volunteers were able to get Jake to camp! Amy stood at the closing ceremony and talked about how thankful she has been to have this week with Chad, and to have Jake there made for an amazing week. She learned so much about Jake and looks forward to going to the same high school next year.



CTB – MASSACHUSETTS

This year CTB-MA celebrates our 9th year of reuniting siblings throughout the commonwealth of Massachusetts! We are gearing up for another great CTB experience at Camp Taconic in the beautiful Berkshires. Through our work at Sibling Connections, we offer Sibling Sundays for sisters and brothers who don't live together, regularly scheduled opportunities to connect in a safe environment for a day. Kids learn that the sibling relationship is a viable family bond. CTB-MA provides the opportunity for our siblings to spend more than a day together and create memories that last a lifetime!



CTB – NORTHWEST (OREGON)

For six days, 78 campers and 41 counselors had the times of their lives! 22 new volunteers and 19 returning volunteers created yet another magical week. Special highlights included: the "Amazing Race" competition between family groups, a special theme night that included formal attire for all, dancing, and an amazing dessert bar with a massive chocolate fountain! A new counselor, Kate, summed it up: "I am humbled beyond belief. I have truly opened my eyes, and I connected with the neatest kids I have ever met. I cried and laughed more than I have in five years. My heart and soul are full of joy due to this experience that you so graciously afforded me. I will never be the same person again."



CTB – MAINE

Hannah and Kevin (6 year veteran campers) have matured in amazing and wonderful ways. When they first came to Camp (at ages 8 and 9), they had spent very little time together. Back then, Kevin required constant attention as he was full of energy and anger; his behaviors displayed this fury regularly. On the last day of her first camp, Hannah refused to get out of her bunk, wanting to stay. Despite fights and hurt feelings about their past, when sibling quilts were exchanged, the touching and forgiving messages they shared were clear indications of their deep sibling love and bond. Now, six years later, they attended camp with their younger brother, Johnny, with Kevin being a model older brother and Hannah a loving big sister. They have come a long way.

A recent email from Hannah shared that her adoption had failed and she had moved yet again. She was very happy for her brother, Kevin, who had been adopted and was living with Johnny, but she was often depressed because she was seldom able to see them. She asked if they would be able to attend this summer, because "Camp has been such a blessing in my life."

HOW CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Many people often ask how they can help us make a difference. CTB is a nonprofit that raises our funding entirely through donor funding. We are not the recipient of any government funding. It is through the generosity of private donors, family foundations and grant making organizations that we survive and thrive.

In addition to financial contributions, there are 10 member camps who are always seeking volunteer counselors, especially male counselors, to provide strong role models for our campers. We also have a "wish list" of items that camps are consistently seeking, including: toys, arts/craft supplies, sleeping bags and more. We even have donors who "sponsor" events such as the Birthday Party or specific items that are given to all of our member camps that benefit all children attending a CTB. We also accept donations of motor vehicles (cars, motorcycles, RV's, boats).

If you know of a family member, friend or work for an organization that is interested in helping CTB in these or other ways, please contact us at info@camptobelong.org or donate on-line at www.camptobelong.org/donate. On behalf of all of our siblings, thank you!

Camp To Belong 2013 Camp Dates:

CTB-Nevada

Camp Site: Pathfinder Ranch, Mountain Center, CA
June 16-21, 2013

CTB-New York

Camp Site: Camp Chingachook, Lake George, NY
June 23-28, 2013

CTB-Northwest/Oregon

Camp Site: Camp Silver Falls, Salem, OR
June 24-29, 2013

CTB-Georgia

Camp Site: Camp Dream, Warm Springs, GA
July 7-12, 2013

CTB-Orange County

Camp Site: Outdoor Education Center-Irvine, CA
July 27-August 3, 2013

CTB-Colorado

Camp Site: Santa Maria, CO
August 12-17, 2013

CTB-Northwest/Washington

Camp Site: Miracle Ranch Camp-Port Orchard, WA
August 12-17, 2013

CTB-Maine

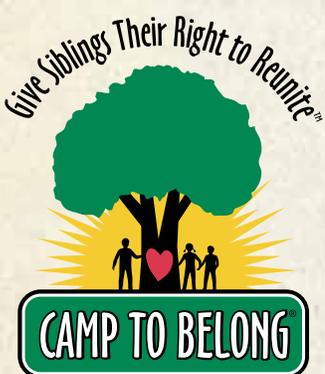
Camp Site: Camp Wigwam, Waterford, ME
August 19-24, 2013

CTB-Massachusetts

Camp Site: Camp Taconic, Hinsdale, MA
August 22-27, 2013

CTB-Australia

TBD



Make a Difference at Camp This Summer!

Your tax deductible gift of any amount will make a significant difference for siblings this summer.

My/our check is enclosed for \$ _____.

Credit Card Type: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Signature: _____

Verification Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Billing Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

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Telephone: _____

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 520-413-1395.