



CAMP TO BELONG MAINE

Giving Siblings in Maine Their Right to Reunite

RIGHT TO REUNITE:



WE BELONG TOGETHER

2011 Year in Review

It's hard to believe our 8th season of Camp To Belong Maine arrived and passed so quickly. The days flew by with fabulous weather, fun activities and laughing brothers and sisters. We welcomed 30 campers along with 19 volunteer counselors. Although our numbers were lower than in the past, we had another quality program where separated brothers and sisters were able to share special moments, play games, laugh, cry and strengthen their bond. New campers immediately fell into the swing of the week and returning campers served as wonderful role models, guiding the new campers and encouraging them to take advantage of this special time with their siblings.

This year we started off by welcoming four new volunteer counselors, who immediately became part of the CTB Maine family. The entire staff hiked up Hawk Mountain on the first day of staff training to do some team building and experience a truly breathtaking view of the surrounding area. We also welcomed more connection with the Camp Wigwam activity staff who was more involved in the CTB Maine training. These solid relationships set the tone for the week as we welcomed the campers to the magical Camp Wigwam, our host site.

We also welcomed the Eagle Riders for an afternoon BBQ. The Eagle Riders have chosen CTB Maine as their charity and plan to hold motorcycle rides each year to raise money for CTB Maine. It was a pleasure to share information and stories about CTB with them and we are grateful for their support.

When the campers arrived on Tuesday, August 16, it was inspiring and heartwarming to see the brothers and sisters race to one another to share long-awaited hugs and hellos. Some of the siblings had not had contact in months or even since last

year. They knew that at Camp To Belong Maine, they had an entire week together to look forward to where they could share their thoughts, dreams, concerns and joys. They could laugh and cry and they knew they would be safe and could be kids for an entire week.

Again this year, the opening campfire demonstrated what articulate, mature and kind campers we host at CTB Maine, no matter their age. Campers spoke about their past experiences at Camp, their love of their siblings, the fun they have, the friends they make and learning that they are not alone. They

encouraged all campers to cherish their moments together and focus on their brothers and sisters.



The campers did just that all week. They

played games, shared cabin time and ate meals together.

We introduced a couple of new activities and events including the Sibling Superstars! trivia game which was a huge hit, and the campers received journals to write their special thoughts, dreams, ideas, feelings, etc. We also held a family game night where campers and counselors together played lawn games and board games. Charades was a surprising success.

Other highlights of the week include:

- Birthday party w/ presents and cake
- Carnival with Soak-the-Dope attraction
- Water tubing and trampoline
- Hiking Hawk Mountain

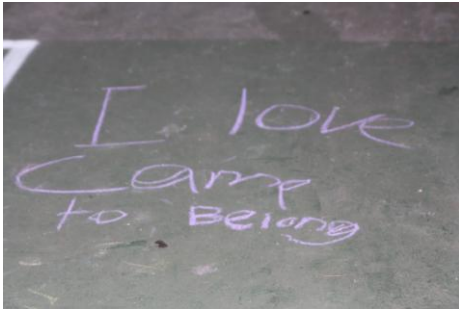
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Camp To Belong Maine is a project of Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine, Inc. and is a non-profit 501c3 organization (01-0515363)

Camp To Belong Maine is a member of the Camp To Belong International Association of Camps

Sibling art activities
Scrapbooking w/ lots of photos
Lots of good food, sunshine, and
QUALITY SIBLING TIME!

Although it is always sad for the week to come to an end, we are confident that campers and counselors walked away with a wonderful experience that they will hold in their hearts for years to come. The brothers and sisters who attended shared their sadness of missing their siblings and also their joy of having a whole week together to create memories and to be kids.



Media Attention

We welcomed Meg Haskell from the Bangor Daily News whose article can be found by going to the Camp website media page.

We also welcomed Steve Minnick from WMTW Channel 8 News who taped a segment for the 6 o'clock news. This report can also be found by going to the media page on the CTB Maine website.

Community Support

Camp To Belong Maine would not be possible without the support of community members, organizations, businesses, etc. Each year we are grateful for the monetary and in-kind donations we receive. Despite the difficult economic times that we have faced and continue to face, people come through for us by collecting birthday gifts, volunteering their time, sewing pillows and quilts, holding fundraisers and raising awareness of our program. We are so grateful for everyone who has

supported us and look forward to working with you again this next year.

Please check out a list of some of our supporters on our website. The list is continually being updated.



Maine Marathon/Half Marathon/Relay

Mark your calendars! The Maine Marathon will be held on October 2, 2011. CTBM has been chosen as the recipient organization for the proceeds from the 2010 and 2011 Marathon. You don't have to be a runner to be part of this exciting opportunity. There are many opportunities to volunteer and CTBM will have a group of walkers participating in the half-marathon.

It's not too late to register to be a participant in the Marathon/Half Marathon/Relay. However, registrations are filling at record speed, so the sooner the better.

Camp To Belong Maine will also have the responsibility and privilege to staff a major water stop along the route. If you are able to join us, please follow this link to sign up.
http://www.doitsports.com/volunteer2/info.tcl?job_id=13434778&volunteer_id=2456528

There are many other volunteer opportunities so please go to www.mainemarathon.com and click on the link "Volunteer Now" under More Information on the left side of the page. Please indicate that you are connected to CTB Maine.

If you are interested in participating or volunteering, please go to the CTB Maine website www.camptobelongmaine.org for more information.

An online pledge tool is now available!!!

Combined Charitable Appeal

If you live and work in Maine, the chances are your company has an annual Combined Charitable Appeal that enables you to support your favorite charity through payroll deductions. If you would like to contribute to CTBM through your company, check with your HR to learn if options are available. We would like to thank those folks who have already named CTBM as their charity. Employees of the State of Maine can contribute through *MaineShare by writing in Camp To Belong Maine* with code number 71945. Employees of the University of Maine System can also contribute through MaineShare by writing in Camp To Belong Maine, PO Box 8077, Portland, ME 04104

Camp To Belong Maine is on facebook

Don't forget to "Like" Camp To Belong Maine on facebook. Please check us out and watch for updates and new information. We encourage campers and families to connect with CTB Maine on its official facebook page. Counselors and staff are not allowed to be friends with campers through their personal facebook pages so if campers want to connect with counselors, the official CTB Maine facebook page is the way to do so.



Sincere Thanks

The entire Camp To Belong Maine family would like to offer our sincere thanks to all the people, organizations and companies that made CTBM possible.

We would like to express our great appreciation to DHHS and Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine (AFFM). AFFM has been an unwavering source of support and provides Camp To Belong Maine with its nonprofit status. DHHS provides monetary and

human resources without which CTBM wouldn't happen.

We also must convey our gratitude to Camp Wigwam, host site of CTBM, who has partnered with us from the beginning to provide a welcoming home for CTBM counselors and campers.

And, of course, we thank the volunteer counselors who dedicate their time and own resources to spend a week at camp ensuring our separated siblings create lasting memories together; and the day volunteers who work diligently behind the scenes to make the week unforgettable.

The number of individuals who give their time, resources, money are too numerous to name, but please know how much your contributions are valued. CTB Maine is a grassroots effort and our success depends on all generosities; there is no such thing as a small contribution.



2011 CTB Maine Counselors

Parting Words from our Campers

"The best thing about camp is doing activities with my siblings. The worst thing is leaving so many people who understand what I am going through but the worst part is leaving my brothers."

"I would have to say that camp is the best place ever for me because I never see them [siblings] at all. It gives me a week to be with them and show them I still love them and care for them. So I have to say thank you guys for letting me be at Camp To Belong."