



Camp To Belong Maine

www.campbelongmaine.org



2009 Year in Review

Our sixth season was another smash hit!

CTB Maine welcomed 62 brothers and sisters (27 sibling groups) to join together to share the week and create precious memories that they will bring with them wherever they go. The week of camp provided a rare opportunity for brothers and sisters to spend quality time together in a safe, supportive environment where they could be silly, play games, challenge themselves on a hike, have tough conversations they haven't been able to have elsewhere, share meals together, celebrate their birthdays, argue about who got to sit next to whom at the campfire, and learn to focus on their siblings and make



the most of the time they are together even when they don't get along.

Campers met other campers who shared similar life experiences and learned from each other

about the inner strength they possess and the gifts they have to share with others.

Over the past 6 years we have witnessed young campers grow to become young adults, quiet, shy campers to become outspoken and articulate, and reserved campers become leaders and advocates. When 5 years ago a camper may have chosen to solve a problem with anger, he now acknowledges the better option to step away and seek guidance from a counselor or staff member. Another camper who felt she was unable to successfully accomplish any outdoor challenge now supports and encourages other campers to have faith and give it their best. Two sisters who were reluctant to attend and participate in Camp now are dynamic young women who demonstrate great leadership skills with new campers and are excited for Camp each year. Probably one of the most eye-opening, profound moments was the answer given by 3 brothers when asked what they like most about Camp. They stated "Waking up in the cabin and knowing your brothers are with you." They also shared that they appreciate having the chance to have tough conversations and be supported by the adult volunteers at Camp. Although Camp To Belong Maine is not a "therapy" camp, we have learned that a lot of healing starts to happen for the siblings who attend. Camp isn't just about the activities such as swimming and hiking and tubing. Although these are definitely a great part of Camp, the campers admit that they just want to be with their brothers and sisters; where they are and what they are doing comes in second place. However, they do admit that the atmosphere at Camp allows them to relax,

to feel safe, and to let their guard down, even if for only a few days.

They attribute these feelings to the counselors and staff who volunteer their time for 10 days so the siblings can share this time together and create lasting memories. Campers and staff have witnessed the unwavering dedication and commitment of volunteers who continually devote their time and energy to making the camp week a successful one. Each year our percentage of returning counselors and day volunteers increases. We have established solid teams to support the birthday store and decorate birthday cakes, to capture the week in photos, and provide assistance with the many behind-the-scenes tasks. The counselors come from far and wide with the commitment and passion to provide an unforgettable experience for the campers. The adults often comment that they come to give to others, but in reality, they get far more than they give.

As the campers and their experience at Camp is **THE MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITY FOR ALL OF US**, I leave you with some camper quotes that were captured and will be forever imprinted in our memories....

"Camp is the Best because I get to be with you"

"Please don't go away because I need you with me"

"Your tears are real because it is the same way I feel"

"Being your sibling forever is a Dream come true, because you know, I Truly Love You."



Sisters creating scrapbooks

Camp To Belong Maine is coming to Facebook soon. Also, if you would like to be added to our email list to receive news and updates, please send your email to heidi@campbelong.org with CTBM Email in the subject line

Sincere Thanks

The entire Camp To Belong Maine family would like to offer our sincere thanks to all the people and companies who 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, 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 generousities; there is no such thing as a small contribution.

Here are just a handful of donors who contributed this year.

Numerous Camp Wigwam alumni and camper families
Boys at Long Creek Youth Center
Ingrid Weimer and son Austin of Chicago IL
European Bakery
Monhegan Boatline
Trailing Yew
The Gold Room Comedy Club
Yankee Lanes
Great Mountain Farm
Baxter Tea Company
Artist Sandi Miot
The Children's Miracle Network
Funtown
Inn on Peaks Island
Portland Sea Dogs

Ongoing Fundraising Opportunities

Shaw's Neighborhood Rewards

If you shop at Shaw's, your grocery purchases can earn money for Camp To Belong Maine. The directions to register your card are below for your convenience along with CTBM's registration number.

Go to **www.shaws.com**
Click on **Community Rewards**
Click on the **Shoppers Login or Register with your Shaw's Rewards Card** link
Once you've logged in, click **Sign Me Up**
Use your Shaw's Rewards Card to sign up
Enter CTBM's Community Rewards identification number 49001019310

Baxter Tea Company "Coffee That Cares"

Baxter Tea Company in Gardiner, Maine, has dedicated a specific coffee as part of its "Coffee That Cares" fundraising program. Go to the site below, purchase this coffee and select Camp To Belong Maine as your charity and CTBM will receive \$3.00 from each bag sold.

Go to <http://tinyurl.com/yb3ufw4>

Combined Charitable Appeal

If you live and work in Maine, 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

Stay Tuned...

Other fundraisers that are being developed include a wine tasting, dinner and silent auction as well as the 2nd annual Family Fun Day.

If you would like to help plan any of these events, please contact Heidi M. Krieger at heidi@camptobelong.org or 207-899-7507.

Help Needed

GRANT WRITERS NEEDED. If you are, or if you know someone who is, skilled in grant writing, we would like to hear from you. Please contact Heidi at heidi@camptobelong.org or 207-899-7507.

Other News

Mark your calendars! The Maine Marathon will be held on October 3, 2010. 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.