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## **IT'S MORE THAN JUST CAMP; IT'S COMMUNITY**

### **At YMCA Camp Lincoln, community brings unity and changes lives.**

July 14, 2017 (Exeter, NH)—Sometimes community is nothing more than proximity, or sharing common interests and goals. For Southern District YMCA, though, community means helping a group of four foster children reunite. Community means bringing an idea to life: an all-accessible tree house, so that everyone can experience the joy of climbing a tree. On Tuesday, July 25, from 6:00-8:00PM, YMCA Camp Lincoln invites everyone to come together and experience the magic of camp at its second Community Night of the year.

Kathleen, a local foster mother, shared the impact that community can have. Kathleen's foster daughter, Sara, and her three siblings were separated in the middle of the night and put into state custody. The children were split up, and they unconsciously entered survivor mode, but they are receiving a chance to push aside their stress—together. YMCA Camp Lincoln is providing full-scholarship (\$1,880) for the four siblings, and all three foster families are working together to coordinate transportation and lunches. Kathleen knows how positive this will be for them, "I am so grateful to YMCA Camp Lincoln for accepting Sara and her siblings. Being separated has been especially hard on the older children—two boys aged 13 and 14, and a girl, 11. They are very close. This will give them a chance to spend some much-needed time together while they are living separately."

This is the community that YMCA Camp Lincoln fosters. A community where kids can focus on being kids: running, jumping, or climbing. Children are encouraged to reach new heights, even those in the treetops. The newest addition to YMCA Camp Lincoln will be an all-accessible tree house: Adam's Tree House. A tree house like this perfectly reflects the goals of inclusion and community that is fostered at the Y. Without community support, these incredible heights could not be reached.

Southern District YMCA continuously supports the community through scholarships for our very own YMCA Camp Lincoln, Exeter Area YMCA and School Age Child Care. YMCA Camp Lincoln is located at 67 Ball Road, Kingston, NH. Everyone is invited to bring their family and friends to enjoy a free, grilled dinner and a fun evening of camp activities. The climbing wall and archery range will be available, and make sure you bring your swimsuit to kayak or float in Kingston Lake! End the night by toasting marshmallows over the new fire pit and discovering your community at YMCA Camp Lincoln. For more information about Southern District YMCA, or Community Night, contact the Exeter Area YMCA at 603 642 3361, or visit <http://www.sdymca.org/ymca-camp-lincoln/community-nights-at-ymca-camp-lincoln>.

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Southern District YMCA is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose programs build healthy mind, body, and spirit for all. Through Camp Lincoln in Kingston, NH, the YMCA offers summer camp for ages 3 to 15, and youth leadership programs for ages over 14. Through School Age Child Care in 15 local school districts, the YMCA runs a state-licensed before-and after-school program that includes homework time, physical activity, a healthy snack, and positive relationships. Y-Arts conducts art and fine art classes for all ages and abilities. For more information about Southern District YMCA/Camp Lincoln, Inc. and Exeter Area YMCA, please visit [www.sdymca.org](http://www.sdymca.org) or email [YMCAexeter@sdymca.org](mailto:YMCAexeter@sdymca.org).