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## **St. Jude's Ranch for Children Brings Camp-To-Belong into its Community of Services**

*Southern Nevada charity builds on its 56-year legacy by acquiring international camp to expand sibling preservation services across the country*

LAS VEGAS – St. Jude's Ranch for Children and Camp To Belong have come to an agreement to bring the sibling preservation summer camp under the oversight and operations of the well-established Sibling Preservation Program of leading charity St. Jude's Ranch for Children.

Camp To Belong was founded in 1995 by Lynn Price, who was separated from her sister while in foster care. She learned at 8 years old that she had a biological sibling, but contact was limited. As an adult, she advocated for sibling rights and held the first camp for siblings separated in foster care in Las Vegas, Nev. Since then, Camp To Belong has become a special place where youth in foster care can regain a sense of permanency and connection by strengthening their sibling relationships. Knowing that siblings are typically one of the longest relationships in most people's lives, the motivation behind the weeklong camp is to provide a safe space for siblings separated in foster care to connect with one another and build upon their sibling bonds.

"My vision for Camp To Belong has come true," said Camp To Belong Founder Lynn Price. "I had always anticipated a prominent, expert, and respected child welfare organization would believe in and validate our program enough to bring it into their home. The fact that that organization is St. Jude's Ranch for Children, a leader in sibling preservation, and physically located in the city where Camp To Belong was born, will catapult the mission to the forefront of child welfare."

Since its inception in 1966, St. Jude's Ranch for Children has been a community of hope and healing for youth living in foster care. It has a long history of championing sibling rights, including keeping together large groups of siblings under the same roof at the Ranch on its Boulder City campus, creating monthly activities for separated brothers and sisters to spend time together through its Sibling Preservation Program, and its CEO co-authoring the Sibling Bill of Rights (ABA 393, 2013) to guarantee sibling relationships are prioritized and maintained within foster care in the State of Nevada.

"As the home state where Camp To Belong was founded, we have continued to run our own Camp-To-Belong program in Nevada for many years and are thrilled to have the capacity and experience to bring the concept into our array of services for brothers and sisters separated in foster care," said Dr. Christina Vela, Chief Executive Officer of St. Jude's Ranch for Children. "Our goal is to carry on Lynn's legacy by continuing the good work that has been done to help

build strong sibling relationships and to support the creation of new camps to serve even more children across the country and beyond.”

Camp To Belong’s current and future members will have the opportunity to be a part of a large sibling preservation community with support services, camp assistance, educational opportunities, tangible goods, and more.

#### ABOUT ST. JUDE’S RANCH FOR CHILDREN’S SIBLING PRESERVATION PROGRAM

In Southern Nevada alone, thousands of children live in foster care every day. About a quarter to a half of them are not able to be placed together in a home with their brother(s) or sister(s). Once they are separated, it is not common for children to be reunited. St. Jude’s Ranch for Children’s Sibling Preservation Program focuses on preserving the sibling bond despite separate placements by offering programs and events for these brothers and sisters to spend quality time together.

#### ABOUT ST. JUDE’S RANCH FOR CHILDREN

For more than 56 years, St. Jude’s Ranch for Children has been a community of healing and hope for children and young people that are victims of abuse and neglect. The non-denominational 501(c)3 non-profit organization helps children and youth, ages zero to 25, who have been abused, neglected, exploited and/or homeless, by providing safety, stability, and healing in a caring environment. St. Jude’s Ranch for Children offers customized therapy, high-quality residential and transitional housing programs, and numerous supportive services, as well as opportunities to keep families and siblings together and spend time together when separated in foster care. The charity’s ultimate focus is to break the cycle of abuse and help children and young people become thriving positive members of the community. For more information visit [stjudesranch.org](http://stjudesranch.org) or get social @StJudesRanch for Facebook and Twitter or @stjudesranchforchildren on Instagram.

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