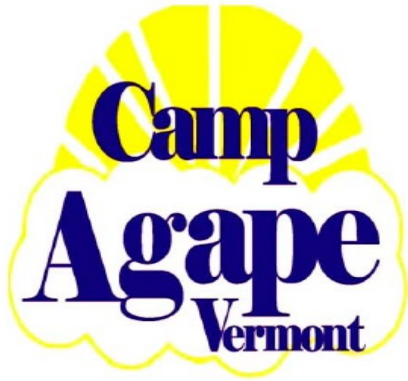


December, 2019



## THE MISSION

To offer a free week of summer church camp to VT kids with a parent in prison. At camp, each child will be loved and accepted

Josie returned for her fifth year at camp. Most of those years, she had come to camp from various foster homes, but for the last year, she had been living with her aunt. She arrived at camp subdued, preoccupied, and seemed sad. I was worried that things weren't going well for her. On that first evening, before our "Fireside" devotions, she took me aside. It turns out that Josie and her aunt were considering adopting each other. She asked: "If I get adopted, can I still come to camp?" I responded: "Of course you can! You are a Camp Agape camper! There will always be a place for you here!" She bounded away, back to her usual bubbly enthusiasm to rejoin her group.

Steph arrived at camp for the first time. She had been in five different foster placements in the previous six months. During that time, her mother's parental rights had been terminated. That is a lot for a nine year old to get her mind around. She had asked one foster mom: "What does that mean? How can my mother not be my mother anymore?" The foster mom helped her write a good-bye letter to her mother. It was hoped that her current foster family would be her "forever" family. They were reluctant to send her off to camp when she had only been in their home for four days, but here she was, a brand-new Camp Agape camper. Steph's week was filled with smiles and enthusiasm, and occasional bouts of withdrawal and tears. Her DCF case manager wrote six weeks later to ask if we have any other events through the year. All Steph ever talks about is camp, and when she can come back.



**PLEASE GIVE  
WE NEED YOU  
MORE THAN  
EVER!**

Sam returned for his fourth year at camp. During the scavenger hunt the first night, I asked his group what they were most looking forward to for their week at camp. Several boys said: "Swimming! Fishing! Archery!" Sam said: "We're all pretty much abandoned, you know. I am looking forward to being loved!"

