

## Making a Difference

There are probably a million stories each summer about camp staff making a difference in the lives of campers. A July article in the *Kennebec Journal* told a story of how two camp staff made the difference in the lives of a whole family.

A 3-year old boy slipped out of his mother's grasp while dangling his feet in the water at the top of a waterfall. He was swept over two waterfalls with a total drop of 55 feet. The boy's father jumped in at the base of the falls, where he was finally able to find the unconscious child when he floated to the surface.

Two counselors with a group of 10-year old boys from Camp Winnebago were at the falls following an overnight trip. One counselor jumped in after the child while the other counselor led the boys out of sight of the water and then plunged in after his co-counselor. Both staff members were CPR- and WFA-trained and working as a team, stabilized the child's neck and performed CPR until the boy started breathing on his own.

In this remote area there is no cell phone coverage, but by a strange coincidence, an ambulance was passing by and was flagged down by a witness. Emergency personnel transported the boy to a hospital in Bangor in stable condition.

In reviewing this situation, several important factors become apparent:

- Staff training, which included CPR and WFA, made this rescue possible.
- Counselors used excellent judgment in moving their group of campers away from the water and out of sight of the potentially psychologically traumatic scene.
- Staff's alertness and quick response in this time-critical situation helped bring about a positive outcome.

Markel salutes the staff from Camp Winnebago! These two counselors are role models who embody the highest values and tradition of service that camping professionals share.

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If you have a safety or risk management question or a suggestion for a topic, please contact Markel's Risk Management Department at [safety1st@markelcorp.com](mailto:safety1st@markelcorp.com).