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ONE FAMILY AT A TIME!**

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PLEASE JOIN ME IN WELCOMING THE PARKS FAMILY TO BOW.

I want to introduce you to a family that recently moved into our town and to the positive impact **Nate Parks** (with the help of his family) makes on our society. My family has been attending **CenterPoint Church** (over 200 years old) in Concord for approximately seven years. Though I have made many friends in my time there, the person I respect, as much, if not more than others, is Nate Parks. When he told me his family found a home in Bow, one of my first thoughts was that Bow needs to get to know Nate and about his leadership of **Berea Ministries**. Let me tell you a little about both.

Nate Parks is a fascinating combo of many things. He is a clergyman with an MBA degree. His accent is an intriguing combination of his childhood days in Spain and Minnesota. He loves biking, climbing mountains, and eating ice cream. He has travelled to over forty countries and all fifty states, yet his favorite place to live is New England. A New Hampshire resident for over 20 years, Nate and his family just moved from Hebron to Bow in the past year.

Nate and his family moved to be closer to school and work for his wife and kids. His wife, Heidi, went back to school and just got her nursing license and now works at Concord Hospital. Nate's oldest daughter Grace attends NHTI, Bella goes to Concord Christian, and Isaac is loving school with the resources provided for kids with autism through the Bow education system. Nate is grateful to have found a house and town that are great fit for his family (and their corgi Lexi and cat Apollo). Living in Bow also allows Nate to be an hour closer to Camp Monadnock, the latest development of **Berea Ministries**, of which Nate is the **President/CEO**.

Berea Ministries exists to share a message of hope. Nate explains, "We are trying to change the world one life at a time." Nate recognizes that the world is broken but that there is so much goodness and hope amid the brokenness. Those who spend time at Berea Ministries leave rejuvenated and empowered to return to their communities filled with love, joy, and peace. In a time full of hate and disunity, camp provides a place for people to find connection; to rest, heal, and flourish; and to grow so they can lead and help others to do the same when they return to their own communities.

Berea Ministries is the parent organization of **Camp Berea** (Hebron, NH), **Camp Monadnock** (Jaffrey, NH), **Camp Kerith** (Lyman, ME), and **Greenhouse** (one-day trainings hosted all around New England). From those who like go-go-go, to those who want to relax in a rocking chair on an 1800s porch, to those who want to survive in the wilderness, there is a place for everyone.



Camp Berea is located on Newfound Lake and runs youth overnight summer camps, winter snow camps, adult retreats, family weeks, and more. The location is known not only for its lakefront but also for its delicious frappes! Camp Monadnock rests at the foot of the highly trafficked Mount Monadnock. Guests stay in the Ark, built in 1808, and Carlson Manor, another historical building with a porch perfect for sitting.

Each offshoot of Berea Ministries allows the organization to effectively provide a space for people from all over New England and beyond. The organization reaches thousands of people annually. Nate would tell you that Berea Ministries operates successfully due its dedicated staff, selfless volunteers, and invaluable partners. No doubt this is true, but I would argue his leadership is the key.

I hope you will take a little of your precious time to learn more about Berea Ministries or how you can get involved! If so, you can check out the just-updated Berea.org for info about the camps, conferences, volunteer possibilities, and giving opportunities.

The information provided in this article does not constitute legal advice.

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