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Media Contact:

Ruby Haddock
VP of Development
801.221.9930
rhaddock@kotm.org

BYU Students Find Love at Kids On The Move Respite Center

OREM, UT — April 18, 2017— When Tyler Terry entered BYU as a freshman in 2011 he discovered the Kids On The Move (KOTM) Respite Center and immediately started volunteering. Although Terry took a break to serve an LDS mission, as soon as he returned he continued to volunteer at KOTM Respite. He volunteered solo until he met Katherine Jewell in 2015.

They quickly started dating and Terry decided to ask Jewell to join him as a volunteer. Through caring for children with special needs together, they knew they'd found something unique.

Furthermore, Jewell did not volunteer just once to impress her new boyfriend. "We have been here ever since," said Terry.

"Volunteering at Kids On The Move Respite Care was very different from other things I volunteered at," said Jewell. "It was really fun, so fun to be with the kids, but I was a little worried about caring for medically-fragile children. I didn't want to hurt them. It was comforting to have a nurse at Respite Care."

At Kids On The Move, Respite Care is defined as the temporary care of children with special needs, providing a short period of rest and relief to their usual caregivers. Each volunteer is assigned to one child so that parents can rest easy knowing their child has one-on-one supervision while they are away.

"It is so rewarding to hear the parents explain how valuable the break was for them. We have a positive experience with their kids and they can renew themselves," said Jewell.

Volunteering at Respite Care gave Terry and Jewell the chance to get to know each other in an uncommon way. Straying from the typical mini-golf date, these two found an activity that allowed them to bring out the best qualities in each other.

They fell in love throughout their service together and are engaged to be married this June. They still almost never miss a Friday volunteering at the KOTM Respite Center.

Terry and Jewell agree that "it is really worthwhile becoming a child's buddy for the night and giving the parents a break. The program is run really well. We had to learn how to talk and behave around children with special needs. It helps you learn more about yourself. You learn how to adjust. Volunteering helps you develop more confidence. You are less judgmental."

All students at BYU have the opportunity to experience this same transformation at the KOTM Respite Center by signing up to volunteer through Y-serve or www.kotm.org/volunteers.

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Kids On The Move, Inc.

Kids On The Move, Inc. (KOTM) is a nonprofit organization located in Orem, UT. KOTM supports the development of young children and families by "empowering families, one kid at a time." KOTM is the local, proven expert in child development and family resources with four main programs: Early Intervention, Early Head Start, Autism Center and Respite Care. For more information about Kids On The Move, please visit www.kotm.org, or call 801.221.9930.

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