

time\_with\_kids . . .



changing\_lives

young\_life\_naperville\_&\_aurora

└───•moving\_forward

## teens today

As the world around us **changes**, life is becoming more complex and **challenging**. Kids in the Western Suburbs of Chicago live in a **fast paced**, highly **competitive** and achievement-oriented climate. Growing up in the shadow of a rich industrial heritage, surrounded by **cutting-edge** technology, and immersed in a youth-driven media industry—all have contributed to the **development** of kids today.



*"Never before has one generation of American teenagers been less healthy, less cared for, or less prepared for life than their parents were at the same age"*

-U.S. Commission on Adolescent Health

## teens need time with caring adults

*"A fundamental need of young people...is for a stable, supportive bond with a caring adult."*

-Carnegie Council Report,  
*Great Transitions: Preparing Adolescents for a New Century*

## teens need time to carefully consider the truth

*"The problems of adolescence...center on a fateful time of the life course when poorly informed decisions can have lifelong consequences."*

-David Hamburg,  
President, Carnegie Corporation of New York

## what teens need most

- ❑ Help to find the meaning of life
- ❑ More time and involvement from adults
- ❑ More constructive opportunities to experiment with life
- ❑ More opportunities for moral development

-"Adolescent Pressure",  
*U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services*

## adolescent world

Adolescents are being forced to cope with **adult issues** at an age when they are not ready or able to do so. A glimpse inside the **world of adolescents** is frightening:

### Alcohol Use

- ❑ 81% of students have experimented (more than a “few sips”) with alcohol<sup>1</sup>
- ❑ 50% of students drink on a regular basis (current alcohol users)<sup>1</sup>
- ❑ 31.5% of students have had 5 or more drinks of alcohol on one or more occasions during the 30 days preceding a recent student survey (i.e., episodic heavy drinking)<sup>1</sup>
- ❑ 1 out of every 3 students has ridden with a drunk driver<sup>1</sup>
- ❑ 1 out of every 3 students has experimented with alcohol before the age of 13<sup>1</sup>

### Illegal Drug Use

- ❑ 1 out of every 2 students has experimented with marijuana<sup>1</sup>
- ❑ 1 out of every 4 students smokes marijuana on a regular basis (current marijuana users)<sup>1</sup>
- ❑ The percentage of 8<sup>th</sup> graders who report having used marijuana during the past 30 days (preceding a recent survey) has more than tripled since 1991<sup>2</sup>
- ❑ 14% of high school seniors has reported using a hallucinogen and almost 10% have used cocaine<sup>2</sup>
- ❑ 30% of students have been offered, sold, or given an illegal drug on school property during the previous 12 months<sup>1</sup>

### Suicide

- ❑ 1 out of every 5 students has seriously considered attempting suicide<sup>1</sup>
- ❑ Suicide is the third leading cause of death among adolescents

### Sexual Behavior

- ❑ 1 out of every 2 students has had sexual intercourse<sup>1</sup>
- ❑ 1 out of every 3 students is sexually active<sup>1</sup>
- ❑ 1 out of every 4 Freshmen girls is sexually active<sup>1</sup>
- ❑ 16% of students have had sexual intercourse with 4 or more people<sup>1</sup>
- ❑ 1 out of every 5 girls who report having intercourse before age 15 says it was involuntary<sup>2</sup>
- ❑ 53% of high school senior girls think “having a child without being married is experimenting with a worth while lifestyle or [is] not affecting anyone else”<sup>2</sup>
- ❑ Each year, 3 million STDs are sexually transmitted among teenagers<sup>2</sup>
- ❑ Each year, almost 1 million teenage women become pregnant<sup>3</sup>

### Other

- ❑ 50% of children will spend their entire childhood in an intact family<sup>2</sup>
- ❑ 50% of people who say they are religious and consider spirituality important in their life attend religious services less than once a month or never<sup>2</sup>
- ❑ Children between 2 and 17 spend, on average, more than 3 hours/day watching television and videotapes (one hour on schoolwork)<sup>2</sup>

### SOURCES

1 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control, “Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System,” 2004. [<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dash/yrbs>]

2 William J. Bennett, “The Index of Leading Cultural Indicators,” 2004.

3 Alan Guttmacher Institute, “Teenage Pregnancy: Overall Trends and State-by-State Information,” April 2004. [[http://www.agi-usa.org/pubs/fb\\_teen\\_sex.html](http://www.agi-usa.org/pubs/fb_teen_sex.html)]

A 2003 study by *The Search Institute* on a western suburb of Chicago revealed the following information:

*Only 32% of students feel that there are a lot of people who care about them*

*Only 28% of students feel that adults in their town make them feel important*

## the ministry of young life

Young Life is a group of Christ-centered adults from a broad diversity of church traditions committed to:

### our mission

*introducing adolescents to Jesus Christ and helping them grow in their faith.*

## young life leaders

1. Strive to model Christ
2. Earn the right to be heard.
3. Meet kids on their turf
4. Build friendships with high school students
5. Spend time with kids.



*"It is a sin to bore a kid with the gospel."*

— Jim Rayburn, Young Life Founder

## the goal

- To reach disinterested & lost kids.
- To communicate the gospel in a language they can understand.
- For kids to know they are loved.
- For kids to experience Christian Community

## relationships

Young Life is all about **relationships**: relationships between Christian adults and adolescents. As we live our lives before these young people, it is our ultimate desire that they see Jesus Christ living in us. Most of our adolescents do not attend a church service and are not receiving clear information about God's love. It is our goal to **meet kids where they are**, to hang out with them **on their turf** and establish friendships.

## contact

Young Life staff and volunteer leaders are actively involved in the lives of countless young people. By **spending time at the high school** before and after classes, attending sporting events, or grabbing a coffee after school, Young Life leaders establish significant relationships built on trust and friendship.



*"Others will not care  
how much you know until  
they know how much  
you care."*

*-Unknown*

## club

Young Life Club, a weekly event with an **energetic and non-threatening atmosphere**, is designed to break down barriers between young people by making them **feel comfortable and accepted**. Club is attended by a diverse group of teenagers. Club is characterized by lively singing, crazy games, and humorous skits – leading to an informal presentation of the Gospel message by a trusted leader, who has **"earned the right to be heard."** Young Life has an open door policy – anyone is welcome!



*"We loved you so much that we were  
delighted to share with you not only  
the gospel of God **but our lives as  
well**, because you had become so  
dear to us."*

*1 Thessalonians 2:8*

## campaigners

Campaigners provides an atmosphere where kids who have begun a personal relationship with Jesus Christ can grow in their Christian faith and lifestyle. Campaigners is a small group setting where kids come together to **study the Bible** and what it means to live out the Christian faith day by day. Our goal is to start them on the road to Christian maturity and encourage their involvement in a church body. We also want to offer a **safe environment** for serious inquiry into the Christian faith and to discuss issues and concerns from a Christian perspective.

## camp

The camping program is a very strategic part of Young Life. It is a combination of **adventure**, the verbal presentation of the Gospel, and the living out of the Christian faith in individual lives. It provides the opportunity for our high school friends to be removed from their normal routine, to be challenged, and to hear and understand the need for a personal relationship with Christ. The camp experience is often **life-changing** and always unforgettable—guaranteed to be the **best week of your life**.

## changed lives

The value of Young Life is seen in the **changed lives** of young individuals **because of a relationship with Christ**.

Through Young Life, we hope kids will.

- Know God's unconditional **love**.
- Have a realization of their **significance** in God's world
- Find a renewed passion for **life**.



*"I never look at the masses as my responsibility. I look at the **individual**. I can only **love one person** at a time. So you begin. I **begin**. I pick up one person. Maybe if I didn't pick up that one person, I would never have picked up 42,000. Just begin . . . one, one, one."*

--Mother Teresa

## changed world

The **real product** of Young Life is the difference these **changed lives** will make as they graduate and enter the **world**.



### quotes

"**Club** this year has seemed to become much more **meaningful** for me. The **message** of Christ is being brought out not only through words . . . but music and skits as well."—senior

"**Campaigners** has taught me so much about Jesus and how He **relates to my life** and just how to imitate Him in my life"—sophomore

"[**Fall Weekend**] was a time when I could get away from everything, and go have a good time—act **crazy**. It also was a time for me to get in touch with **God** on a better level"—junior

"**Camp** was the **greatest week of my life**, not only did I have a great time with all of my friends, I also learned more about why I am here on earth."—sophomore

## working to reach kids

- ❑ 1 Area Director
- ❑ 4 Staff Interns
- ❑ 1 Junior High Wyld Life Coordinator
- ❑ 21 Volunteer Leaders
- ❑ 40 Adult Support Team Volunteers

## making it happen with volunteers

Without the help of **volunteer** leaders and adults, Young Life simply could not exist.

Young Life volunteer leaders spend over 200 hours each week with kids across Naperville & Aurora



## watching it work

- ❑ Schools that currently have an active club:
  - Naperville Central HS
  - Naperville North HS
  - Waubonsie Valley HS
  - Neuqua Valley HS
  - District 203/204 Wyld Life (middle school)
- ❑ Over 250 kids attending Young Life/Wyld Life club weekly
- ❑ Over 1400 kids currently in school have attended club
- ❑ 150 kids involved in campaigner groups regularly
- ❑ 180 kids attended our 2006 Polar Bear Weekend camp trip
- ❑ 252 kids attended week-long summer camping trips in 2006
- ❑ kids served a month on **work crew** at a Young Life property in 2006
- ❑ 30 kids served a month on **work crew** at a Young Life property in 2006 (this has more than doubled since 2003).

## our vision

- ❑ Every Kid in Naperville would have a chance to hear the gospel in clear terms they can understand.
- ❑ Kids would experience the **Kingdom of Heaven**, here and now.
- ❑ **Lifelong** relationships with Christ would be formed.
- ❑ Leaders would have relationships with kids **beyond high school**.
- ❑ Young Life helps kids **connect with a church** where they are fed.
- ❑ Young Life would be known for the amount of **time that leaders spend** with kids

*"Those without a vision will perish"*

*-Proverbs 29:18*



## our short-term goals

- ❑ Develop base of leaders from North Central College. 3-5 new leaders *placed* each year (currently 3 total).
- ❑ Create a financial and adult support for Capernaum (ministry for high school kids with disabilities) to begin in Naperville by spring '08.
- ❑ Consistent service at Summer Camps: (25 high school kids serving on Work Crew, 10 college kids serving on Summer Staff each year)
- ❑ Increase summer camp attendance by 10% in each school (275)
- ❑ Increase club attendance by 20% at each school (300)

## our long-term goals

- ❑ Expand Wyldlife ministry by splitting into separate ministries, organized by the high school that they feed into.
- ❑ Create foundation for Young Life in Oswego schools (10-12 committed adult families, and ability to pay ½ of expenses for first 2 years).
- ❑ Hire staff person to run Capernaum within one year of starting.
- ❑ Young Life financially able to hire staff intern, when 5<sup>th</sup> high school opens up in Fall '08.

*October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007*

<b>staff support</b>	<b>\$178,276</b>
Includes salaries for 5 full time staff & 3 part time staff, taxes, medical benefits, and pensions.	
<b>field expenses</b>	<b>\$78,763</b>
Includes vehicle, office, program, training and fund raising expenses	
<b>services</b>	<b>\$57,246</b>
Includes national and regional services, and liability insurance	
<b>campership</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
Provides financial assistance for every kid who wants to go to a Young Life camp but has financial constraints	
<b>capital purchases</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>
Enables area to purchase needed equipment such as copier, computer hardware, and sound equipment	
<b>total</b>	<b>\$320,285</b>

*Young Life is a charter member of the  
Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability*

*Current budget and financial statement are available upon request.*

**2006-2007 Budget = \$320,000**

Golf-a-thon .....	110,000
Personal Support (raised by staff outside the area).....	51,000
Churches/Organizations.....	7,800
Corporate Matching Gifts.....	10,500

**294 Individuals Pledged \$140,400**

**BREAKDOWN OF DONORS**

50 units (17% of total) pledge \$1000+ ... Totals \$85,000 = 61% of total pledged  
 20% of individual givers (59 units) (\$750+) ... Pledged \$91,370 = 65% of total  
 30% of individual givers (88 units) (\$500+) ... Pledged \$109,000 = 78% of total

**BREAKDOWN OF TOP 50 GIVERS**

----- 3	3,000 or more totaling	16,000
----- 12	2,000 - 2,999 totaling	27,000
----- 8	1,500 - 1,999 totaling	12,880
----- 27	1,000 - 1,499 totaling	<u>29,120</u>

**Top 50 pledges \$85,000**



**Rob Hankins. Area Director.** Rob has been on Young Life staff for 4 years, and has been involved with Young Life for 10 years now. He grew up in Flemington, NJ where he lived up until college. After graduating from Wheaton College in May of 2003, and majoring in English and Christian Education, he moved to Naperville to run the Young Life club at Neuqua Valley. He currently serves as the area director, overseeing all of Young Life & Wyldlife in

Naperville, and spends time with kids at Naperville Central.

**Drew Toftoy. Naperville North** Drew has been on Young Life staff since Summer of '06 and has been involved with Young Life for 5 years now. He grew up in Newark, IL, a small farm town about 30 minutes southwest of Naperville, where he lived up until college. While at Northwestern University in Evanston, Drew served as a volunteer Young Life leader at Glenbrook South High School. He went on Young Life staff after graduating from Northwestern in June of 2006 & majoring in Economics.



**Kirstin Anderson. Naperville Central** Kirstin joined Young Life staff in August of 2006. This is her first year leading at Naperville Central, but she has been involved in Young Life now for over 8 years. Kirstin grew up in Hudson, Ohio where she first became involved with Young Life in high school. She attended Wheaton College, graduating in May of 2006 with a degree in Communication and English Literature. Kirstin also

coaches JV cheerleading at Central.



**Paul Farrand. Waubonsie Valley** Paul joined the Naperville & Aurora staff the summer of '06. He was a volunteer leader at Oak Park River Forest High School for the past 4 years. He grew up in Stevensville, MI where he lived until college. Paul graduated from Concordia University in Chicago in May of 2006, with a teaching degree in Physical Education & Theology. Paul also served on Summer Staff

twice and as a Work Crew Boss at Wildhorse Canyon this past summer.

**Annie Udell. Neuqua Valley.** Annie grew up in Naperville, and graduated from Naperville Central in 2000, and then attended St. Francis University in Joliet, where she majored in Radio and Broadcasting. She has served YL as a volunteer, and now as staff, for over 7 years, all of them at Neuqua. She has also served at a Young Life property in Georgia during the summer.



**Michelle Zegarski. Wyldlife** Michelle grew up in Chicago Heights, and has been involved with YL since high school there. She graduated from North Central College in 1998, and has been on YL staff, in some capacity ever since. She currently runs Wyldlife for all of Naperville. In addition, Michelle is also responsible for the Junior High ministry at St. John's Episcopal Church.





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