Summer Camp at Saranac:
a word from camper Chris Carter

I had no idea what to expect on my first trip to Young Life Camp. When we showed up on the first day, it was mayhem as we ran down to the boat dock getting high fives from the Work Crew and Summer Staff. It was hard to choose what to do, but being dragged on a tube with three other friends behind a high performance Sport Nautique at about 35 miles per hour was near the top of my list. It was a good way to get your adrenaline fix and cool off after a hot game of volleyball or basketball. Another thing that I really enjoyed was the waterfront. The whole scene with the volleyball courts and the snack shack was really fun. Nothing could beat the obstacle course, though. I loved donning my old clothes and crawling through the mud or sliding down the big slide, following our leader to the next challenge. Overall, I just loved the camp.

Of course, at Young Life Camp, there was spiritual focus. After dinner, we would head to the club room where we would sing a few songs, there was usually a skit, and then there was the club talk. Tim Toy was our camp speaker for the week. He was very good at speaking, and got across the point very well. What I really took away from those club talks in the end was that Jesus died for you and me. I guess I never really thought about why Jesus died on the cross, but now I understand that he took away the burden of the sin of the world so that we could have a relationship with God. So, at that club talk I Turned my Chair Around at the Say-So talk. Coming away from Young Life Camp, I had a new look on life and what it means to really live.

Addison County Young Life currently has 4 young adults who were involved with Young Life as high school students and are now Young Life leaders in their college communities. These students are Peter Orvis at Virginia Tech, Aliza Kamman at Ithaca College, Hannah Logan at Gordon College and Mark Dickerson at Middlebury College.

Lessons in Leadership by Mark Dickerson
This summer was my first chance to take the reigns as a Wyldlife Leader. Jordan, Josh and Sam couldn’t have been an easier group to bring to camp. They were enthusiastic, respectful, stuck together, and knew how to have fun without crossing any boundaries- an all around great group to have as a first time leader.

I was struck by the numerous ways in which Wyldlife Camp allows leaders to build strong relationships with their campers. Before every activity, the camp staff would remind me of some way in which I could model God’s love: everything from ensuring campers slept at night, to leading them through an obstacle course, to allowing them to tackle me, dunk me in water, and pie my face. Through all of this, I earned the right to talk to them about the “The Greatest Rescue Story of All Time.” While it’s not every week I am away at camp, leading Wyldlife this summer reminded me of ways in which I can express God’s love everyday.
At the 'Nac- Hannah Logan

My experience on Summer Staff* this past summer was different than my experience two summers ago when I did Work Crew* there at Saranac. Some of those differences I was expecting. I was working a different job, working with different people. I stayed in a different room, and my responsibilities were different. But other things were different too. Instead of being on my feet for 15 hours a day, working with ten peers and seeing campers at least three times a day, I was working in the office with one other person. I worked eight hours a day, mostly sitting at a desk, and I rarely saw campers. At first, this disappointed me. I was there to serve campers, and yet I spent most of my time on the phone with their parents or with companies. But as the month progressed, I realized I had a unique opportunity, placed where I was.

Each week brought new campers, but also new leaders. Though I didn’t often see campers, I did get to see leaders, and I was so blessed to serve them, as they often came into the office. Leaders spend their whole week loving kids, and when they came into the office I had the chance to love and serve them. It was great. However, some were easier than others. Some leaders always came in with the correct paperwork and were very easy to please. Others though, were constantly missing important documents, forgot to call in with their numbers or were very needy. These leaders were a lot harder to love.

One such leader did not bring 32 of his 42 health forms. That meant, that I spent my day calling parents, reading legalities to them, and tracking down insurance information. Naturally, I was quite frustrated. However, that night I had the opportunity to watch this leader lead his kids through the obstacle course. Never have I seen a leader lead like he did. Following the army crawl through the mud, he pulled each of his kids out, calling them by name as he helped them stand. By the end, he was the stickiest of them all. Watching him lead was incredible and inspiring. This leader was representing Jesus to his kids. He was not afraid to pull muddy, disgusting, complaining, swearing teenagers from the ground. He was pulling them up to stand with him, because he loved them.

I remember leaving camp two years ago after serving, and not wanting to leave. Though I was excited to help Addison County’s YL grow, I did not want to leave camp, and more importantly, the people there. This year was different. Though I knew I would miss camp and all the fantastic people I had spent an incredible month with, I was excited. I was excited to get back to Massachusetts, and to lead at Hamilton -Wenham Regional High School. I was inspired to be the best leader possible, modeling after Christ. And I still am excited. I am so excited to walk through life with high school girls, giving them a taste of Christ in the ways I can, and letting him do the rest.

Here is a link to a video that Hannah and fellow staffers put together:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qq4MNc8Elos&feature=youtu.be

*Summer staff are college students who volunteer to help at camp.

*Work crew are high school students who volunteer to help at summer camp.

Leaders and campers having fun in the sun.
You may have noticed that the newsletter looks a little different. That’s because there have been a lot of changes around here this year. You’ll be reading about some of the great things that God is doing in the lives of kids and OUR lives too. I wanted to share personally what has led me to accept the Area Director position with ACYL.

My wife Jen and I moved back to Vermont ten years ago when I accepted a part-time youth pastor position with the United Church of Lincoln. Like any good Vermonter, I had a few other jobs along the way to support the family. Three years ago the ACYL committee approached me and asked me join the team officially as part-time mission staff. It was a great fit with the work I was doing at the church. My focus with YL centered on the Mt. Abe ministry and recruiting/training new leaders. As my three year commitment came to an end, Jen and I were faced with the “What now?” question. I did not think staying with YL was one of the options on the table. Although we have had faithful donors in the county, there just hasn’t been enough financial support to sustain a staff person. So I considered other paths. Late last spring, Ed McGuire, Tim Franklin and others started asking “what if?” What if we step out on faith and follow the Lord's leading. What if we jump off that cliff and pray for water at the bottom. Isn’t that what a leap of faith really means? When we considered the work that we had been doing and the work that is just around the corner, we concluded that now was the time to “GO!” So we went.

With the support of the United Church of Lincoln, who is letting my family stay in the parsonage even after I resign my position (they are calling me an area missionary), and with the backing of the Addison County YL Committee, I have accepted the full-time position and will start October 1. We are excited for sure, but we are mindful of the task ahead of us. If we are able raise $15,000 of new and sustainable support in the next three months, then we will be able to begin our work in Middlebury.

I believe the BEST Young Life is ahead of us and I look forward to watching God move in and through people here in Addison County. If you would like to talk with me directly, feel free to call me at 349-0498.

Todd

P.S. Here is what we are doing:
- Young Life and Wyldlife ministry at Mt. Abraham.
- Weekly Club and Campaigner bible study.
- Monthly Wyldlife gatherings in Middlebury
- Weekly training for Leaders

Here is how we would like to grow:
- Train three Middlebury college students.
- Deploy 18 leaders and adult helpers in Bristol and Middlebury.
- Generate interest with parents and adults in Vergennes.
- Find four more members for the ACYL Committee.
A word from our NEW chairman, Tim Franklin

It is exciting for me to follow the visionary leadership of Ed McGuire as I step into my new role as chairman of Addison County Young Life. For close to a decade Ed has put in countless hours organizing and leading Young Life in Addison County, always championing the vision of every student in the county having the opportunity to hear the Good News about Jesus Christ presented in the context of a relationship with a caring adult. This was the vision that captured my imagination five years ago when I joined the YL committee, and it is still the vision that drives us today.

For the past five years I have been participating with ACYL as a committee member. I helped out with the banquet and golf marathon, as well as being part of the WyldLife launch team in Middlebury. Last spring when Ed announced that he would be relinquishing his leadership role, I began thinking and praying about the possibility of God calling me into that position. Over the course of the summer it became clear that this was the right next step for me and for ACYL. I am thrilled to be working alongside Todd Goodyear in his new role as Area Director along with all the creative and visionary people that make up our committee and the local teams.

The opportunities that are before us this fall require great faith and courage. We are continuing Young Life and WyldLife ministry at Mt. Abe. We are continuing WyldLife and planning for Young Life in Middlebury. And our sights are set on Otter Valley and Vergennes as well. Do you share our vision for every middle school and high school student in Addison County hearing about Christ? It would be great to have you partnering with us. We are actively looking for people to join us on committee, on our local ministry teams, on our prayer team, and as monthly financial supporters. I would love to talk with you about how you can partner with us. Please call, text (349-4137) or email me today (timfranklinvt@gmail.com).

Golfing for Young Life of Addison County:
September 17, was a beautiful day at the West Bolton Country Club. The golf was more fun than ever, but the highlight of the day was probably knowing that no golfer suffered serious injuries. Actually, the real highlight is that we were able to raise money and that means we will have more caring adults spending time with teenagers. We want to thank our golfers, Martin Clark, Todd Goodyear, Joe Haskins, Dan Stearns, Alan Wilkinson, Dave Wood, and Paul Wood, who collectively raised over $6000 to support Addison County Young Life by playing 100 holes in the annual Young Life Golf Marathon. Their efforts are an essential part of funding our ministry. There was room for more golfers. You can be part of the fun next year. Let us know if you are interested in golfing next September. We also received generous support from area businesses who donated prizes for the golfers.

Please join us in thanking Bobcat Cafe and Brewery, Cubbers, Rockydale Pizza, Basin Harbor Club, Reed Prescott, Kimball's Office Supply, Potato Hill Bakery, Lincoln General Store and Martin's Hardware. Big thanks as well to Almost Home and Bristol Bakery who provided tasty baked goods for us and to Monument Farms Dairy for the chocolate milk, best recovery drink ever!