In the early years of ministry this sixth-grade girl named Maureen would come to club every week. She was very social and had a lot of friends, was generally a fun-loving kid, but was always a little reserved when it came to the leaders. But she zoned in, every week, when it was time for the talk (not always true for middle school kids). When Maureen started high school, she came to Young Life club. Finally, after six years of leaders spending time with her, loving on her, and proclaiming Jesus to her, Maureen gave her life to Christ at the end of her junior year. It was only then that she shared how tough her life had been over the last six years. Along with difficult family situations, she basically had become the sole caregiver of her father who had disabilities. She told us later that she would go home after club and write down everything the leaders said during the club talks because she did not want to forget what she was learning about Jesus. For the last four years Maureen has been a Young Life leader.

Maureen’s life is a picture of the impact of a longstanding WyldLife ministry. The first WyldLife club on Long Island was started in 1998 as a result of people praying for teenagers in the community. Subsequent WyldLife ministries have started in Long Island: WyldLife’s cooperation with Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Hicksville (2006); Urban WyldLife in Long Beach (2008); North Shore WyldLife (2009); Baldwin and Islip WyldLife (by the end of 2012-2013 school year).

We have found that WyldLife ministries have helped both in developing high school Young Life ministries and in the increase of adult involvement in the community. God is using these ministries to lead many kids to Jesus. It is a blessing and an honor to be a part of this work.
**Telling Stories, Building Community in East New York**

Eight teens joined area director Carolyn Giles in a seven-week Creative Drama Workshop at AGAPE Tabernacle International Fellowship in Brooklyn, N.Y. This summer the program met three days per week and focused on helping teens develop basic storytelling skills by playing improvisational games. Using the story of David and Goliath as a springboard, participants wrote original monologues and scenes about “defeating the giants” in their own lives and showcased their work at AGAPE’s annual Community Day Celebration on Aug. 9-12, 2012. Shaneer (pictured below), Carolyn’s neighbor, had such a great time during the Creative Drama Workshop, that she decided to organize an abbreviated production of “A Raisin in the Sun” for the neighborhood kids so that she could continue honing her craft. Stand by ... I think a star is rising in East New York!

Carolyn Giles, a new area director in New York City models a beautiful blend of using her specific gifts and skills to lift up Jesus. Carolyn has joined our staff after years as a theater teacher at a NYC private high school.

---

**From the Desk of ...**

**GREATER NEW YORK’S DIVISIONAL SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT**

“Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God” (Psalm 20:7).

I was about 6:30 on Thursday night. I was hustling back to the office for our first-ever “Quest,” or First-Year Leadership Training. We had talked a lot about the need for volunteer leaders in the city, but until now had seen little fruit. Tonight would be a good indicator as to how the Spirit was moving.

When I arrived, there were two or three people there — all staff. We really hoped for a few more than that. We had sent out a ton of invites and a number of people had said they were coming. We had some homemade cookies, some veggies and dip, some hot coffee and tea, and some ice cold sodas and punch.

About 7 p.m. a few people showed up. And then a few more. We started to rearrange the chairs. More people. Maybe up to 20 or so. Then they started to come in groups of five and six at a time. By the time we started at 7:15, there were more than 40 people in the room. Old and young, white, black, Latino, a 63-year-old guy working with Capernaum and a 19-year-old college student, three African American women who grew up in the projects of Brooklyn, and two students from Columbia University.

What an amazing group! We had mixers and worship; a great time in the Word led by Meghan Ryan and Alison Taylor, who spoke about calling, commitment and a passion for young people; an opportunity to break into small groups and a great prayer time at the end. People didn’t leave until after 9:30.

The next day, Chase Whitmire, our new metro director in Manhattan, received this email:

Hi Chase, I just want to say thank you, thank you, thank you. I came in when all were already seated and the worship was about to start, and I was so touched by the way I was welcomed in and received. I felt as if I was the most important person they had seen all day — handshakes, introductions, good touches, and getting me a chair. If these are not GOD’S LOVE, then I don’t know what is. Then Meghan and Alison were so "infectious" — their love for what they do so clear and the blessings from it are written all over them.

Thank you all; thank you all; thank you all. I am in and am so excited to be in this with you in whatever way I can. I hope from now on, daily as I meet people they will go away feeling like I felt last night.

Love and blessings,

Funmi

(Funmi is from Nigeria, lives here in the city and was at her first-ever Young Life event.)

Please join us in praying for these laborers and the many more who might join us. We need an army, really we do. The Spirit is moving. It is a blast to be a part of!

In Christ,

---

**The Gentle Healing of a Broken Heart**

This summer, Caroline took a big risk and asked Caity to come to camp. It was a big risk for a few reasons. Caity came to camp in a broken, hurting place — her father had died suddenly from a blood clot after a knee surgery he had in the spring. Because he was a high-profile man, Caity was placed in the spotlight during this devastating time as thousands came to his funeral and viewing, which was also broadcast internationally. The expectation for this 17-year-old girl had been to remain strong and keep it together, even with a young shattered heart inside.

In light of all of this, Caroline was nervous to ask Caity to come to camp. Caity said “yes,” mainly as a way to get away from everything and run from the reality of her father being gone. However, she was instead met with the message of Jesus, with loving friends and leaders around her — all inviting her to step into her new reality, to show weakness, and grieve. Camp was the first time she was invited (or even allowed) to break down. She had space to be honest with God about her anger, bitterness, and questions.

Caity didn’t leave that week of camp following Jesus, but she did come back with friends, leaders, and support as she moves through this process of mourning. Caity is talking openly with leaders and friends; she’s receiving Scripture and words of the truth; she is being loved exactly where she is. It’s clear that Caity’s heavenly Father is moving in her life and drawing her to Himself. What a joy that we get to co-labor as He draws all people to Himself.

Caity, Courtney, and Caroline (left to right) enjoying the beauty of creation at camp.

---

**The Chance of a Lifetime**

West Point Cadet Sean at North Bay WyldLife camp this summer.

---

**Serving Kids in Connecticut, New Jersey, Long Island and New York City**

---

**Building Community in East New York**

- Deborah Jean, Area Director
- Young Life Ministry West, NY