

Lou Chiccehitto: A Brightly Shining Young Life Leader



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According to Lou Chiccehitto, the new area director for **Fauquier County Young Life**, every adolescent is searching for purpose, belonging, and fulfilling relationships. Once students enter sixth grade, they may attend Wyldlife, which is Young Life for middle school-age students. A worldwide 501(c)(3) organization, Young Life is different from other church-based groups or Christian student unions because leaders go where kids are to meet them on their turf, build relationships with them, and invite them to explore who Jesus is, loving them regardless of their response.

Lou grew up in Southern Fauquier and graduated from Liberty High School. He has worked for Young Life for most of his adult career and was promoted to area director this year. He is proud that the organization offers a fun, safe space for young people to be introduced to who Jesus is and grow in their faith. Young Life leaders work hard to “earn the right to be heard” and encourage kids to make their own decisions about who they think Jesus is after hearing the Gospel. Young Life leaders are trained and encouraged to show student members an attitude of love and acceptance, regardless of choices

or viewpoints. “We are relationship-based, as we get to know all kids for who they are, where they are,” Lou says.

Last summer, 60 Fauquier County students went to Young Life camp, and last fall, 75 Fauquier County students took part in its weekend camp. More than 200 students attend local clubs in Fauquier County, while 10 volunteer leaders and two paid staff members support the club on a daily basis with their time, planning, organization, and leadership.

Many students, like Lou and other current adult leaders, choose to participate in Young Life clubs on campus, as most four year universities now have Young Life clubs. Young Life chapters nationwide offer opportunities for members to be actively involved as volunteer leaders, committee members, monthly donors, and community advocates throughout their lives.

Lou serves as a Young Life leader at Liberty High School and oversees and develops all of Young Life’s ministries in Fauquier County. These ministries include every high school and middle school club, Capernaum (Young Life for students with special needs), and Young Lives (Young Life for teen moms), for which he recruits volunteers, donors and leaders. His goals for this year are to take 100 kids to camp and to recruit enough volunteer leaders for Kettle Run High School to form its own club. Outside of his Young Life responsibilities, Lou loves to spend time on the river fishing, in the woods hunting, or at Moo Thru ice cream in Bealeton.

To learn more or to get involved in Fauquier County Young Life, contact Lou by phone at **(540) 533-7263** or via email at **lou@fauquiercounty.younglife.org**.

~ Danica Low

The Well Run Race is in honor of Chris Dove, a former volunteer Young Life leader in Fauquier County. Chris participated in Young Life as a high schooler, and Young Life had such a big impact on his life that he came back to Warrenton as an adult volunteer leader. The Well Run Race donates all proceeds to Young Life in Fauquier County. The annual race will be held on **November 11 at 9:00 a.m.** at Fauquier High School. The registration fee is \$35 for adults and \$25 for students; a one-mile fun run is also available for a \$15 fee. Registration is available in advance by visiting **www.wellrunrace.org** or on race day from 8:00–8:45 a.m.