



The DREAM Program, Inc.

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**The Willowbrook DREAM Update
December 2008**

Greetings from DREAM! Here is a summary of the exciting events and developments that occurred during December. You can always look back at past monthly reports or other programs' reports by going to: <http://www.dreamprogram.org/about/localprograms.htm>. And please, do not hesitate to contact us with questions or ideas.

December marked an exciting yet short month for the Willowbrook DREAM Program! Bennington College's academic calendar only allowed for two afternoons of programming, but both days were filled with smiles, high-fives, games, and laughs.

Highlights from this month include:

- First day of programming at Bennington College,
- Receiving an Alumni Grant, and
- Hot chocolate after a cold day of outdoor games!

Fridays: The core of DREAM happens every Friday when DREAM mentors meet with their partners in group and one-on-one settings. The meetings occur on college campuses, onsite at the children's homes, and at spaces around the community. This month, Friday program included:

- Drum Circle: Willowbrook DREAMers spent an afternoon in the community center playing the drums that they had made out of recycled goods! Programming was full of music, games, recycling, fun, and plenty of noise!
- First Friday of programming at Bennington College: Bennington College mentors brought their mentees to Bennington College for the first time ever! They spent the afternoon touring campus, playing games, sharing their likes, dislikes, and interests, and sipping hot chocolate in front of a roaring fireplace!

Alumni Involvement: DREAM prides itself on its dedicated alumni network (graduated mentors). This network leverages its growing financial and knowledge resources for the program and children. This month, the alumni network was involved by:

- This month, The Willowbrook DREAM program was awarded an Alumni Grant. The grant was awarded to help fund an event, which will bring the Willowbrook community and the Bennington College community together for an evening of food, fun, and entertainment!



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Other:

- Bennington College students are currently in their Field Work Term. They will begin classes the week of February 23, and programming will soon follow!
- The DREAM office began its Annual Appeal which raises essential funds for DREAM to operate and be able to provide programming to its 13 different communities throughout Vermont.
- The Central Office has also started the planning for hiring summer staff. Summer staff will be hired to work throughout the summer at each of DREAM's communities as well as at Camp DREAM.

Keep DREAMing!

Josh Warren
Program Empowerment Director