



The DREAM Program, Inc.

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**The Forest Park DREAM Update
December 2009**

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.

Forest Park DREAMers ended the semester with two fun-filled Fridays full of holiday cheer. With a special surprise visit, the group finished up programming with a party that left their tummies and hearts full and ready to leap into the New Year!

Highlights from this month include:

- Building Gingerbread Houses,
- A Surprise Good-bye, and
- Their traditional Potluck Dinner fundraiser!

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:

- Building Gingerbread Houses: What better way to get everyone in the spirit of the holidays than to have fun decorating mini-houses that you can eat!?
- A Surprise Good-bye: After an amazing year of programming, Forest Park DREAMers celebrated the last DREAM of the year with a special surprise from Jenny Luca, a former mentor, Co-chair, and Summer Intern. Jenny brought a feast for the whole group to come together and enjoy.

Fundraisers: Fundraisers are an important component of the program. They help build ownership amongst the children in the running of the program, and also provide a fun forum to build leadership and organizational skills. This month:

- Their traditional Potluck Dinner fundraiser: On December 2, the mentors rallied students and professors to join in a HUGE potluck fundraiser that ended with the Pixar movie, UP!

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:

- Castleton State College has decided to apply for an Alumni Grant to take their program up to the mountains for a fun day of winter adventure while staying within a short driving



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distance of Forest Park. We'll see how their grant application exhibits their desire to show their kids what it means to have fun right around the corner from their own neighborhood!

Let it snow DREAMs!

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