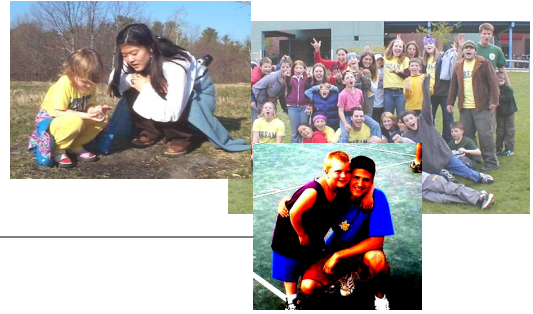




The DREAM Program, Inc.

P.O. Box 361
Winooski, VT 05404
(802) 655-9015 tel
(802) 654-8598 fax
www.dreamprogram.org



Windsor and Dartmouth College DREAM Update April 2008

Greetings from DREAM! Here is a summary of the exciting events and developments that occurred during March. The NAMCO Block DREAM Program currently involves 30 mentors ranging from First Years to seniors and 19 children from 12 families! .

March flew by as Dartmouth's winter term ended and the spring term began, bringing back missed mentors who spent the winter studying abroad or taking some much needed time off. Mentor matches were reunited and spent talking about the trip to the Dartmouth Ski-way, and all the changes that happened to the NAMCO community.

Highlights from this month include:

- A Very Successful High Adventure Date Auction,
- Planning for next month's Teen Retreat, and
- Meeting with RACLT to talk about the future of DREAM at NAMCO Block!

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:

- Small group gatherings where mentees matched with Dartmouth seniors who will graduate this year got a chance to get to know the new mentors they will be matched with in the fall. Friday activities in March included sledding, playing in the Dartmouth gym, eating dinner in the cafeteria, and High Adventure planning with the older children.

Special Events for Children: Special events included:

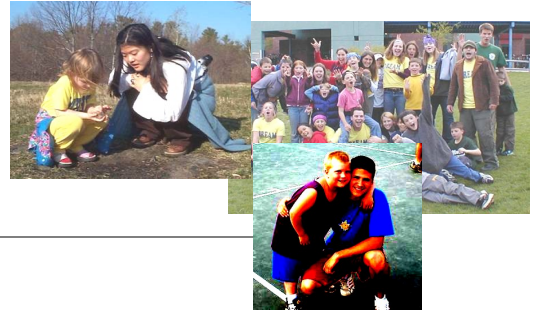
- **Teen Media Project:** For Franklin Square, Elm Street, and Northwoods/HD, the Teen Media Project continued to meet and work on filming skills! The 6 mentors and 12 mentees involved in the Program have learned the different settings on the video camera, and the all important AFEW acronym to help them remember to shoot good footage. They have begun learning how to film and structure interviews, in addition to shooting outdoor footage and are seconds away from determining the focus of their environmental documentaries they will be producing by the end of the summer to make a statement! A number of them may even be able to attend the Youth Environmental Summit in May!
- **Tuesday Night Dinner:** Every Tuesday night mentors Jennie Post and Elizabeth Palmer visit NAMCO Block to prepare, cook, and eat dinner with the Uzarek Family. This event helps the mentors stay connected to the family as well as the NAMCO community.

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:



The DREAM Program, Inc.

P.O. Box 361
Winooski, VT 05404
(802) 655-9015 tel
(802) 654-8598 fax
www.dreamprogram.org



- **Whopper Wednesday!** Every Wednesday night the mentors sell tacos on campus, they have named this weekly event “Whopper Wednesday” to pull the crowd in and attract customers. This has become a popular event, and leaves many excited for the next Whopper Wednesday. The group has raised over four hundred dollars, and they are still planning on selling more!
- **High Adventure Date Auction!** As the Dartmouth DREAM High Adventure trip to Florida approaches, mentors and mentees planned a fun date auction for early April. Mentees introduced their mentors who showed off talents such as singing, juggling, and hoola hooping. Groups of friends bid to spend some time with their favorite DREAM mentor and support the upcoming Florida adventure at the same time! Over \$1000 was raised!

Trips/High Adventures: Perhaps the most exciting components of DREAM are its end of semester trips and summer adventure programs. Children, mentors, parents, and staff look forward to these where the DREAM bus comes out of hibernation and the full group has new experiences together. High Adventure Trips are perhaps the most ambitious of all DREAM activities, and include children in the planning, fundraising, and governing of two-week adventures to places that have included Colorado, Utah, California, and Alaska. This month,

- **High Adventure Retreat:** 18 kids and 9 mentors attending this year’s High Adventure trip to Florida got together at Dartmouth’s Outing Club Cabin on the Skiway to do some teambuilding, learn about the history and culture of regions they will visit in Florida, and design roles and rituals to make traveling as fun and stress-free as possible. The retreat was a huge success, with all participants becoming even more invested in the amazing trip they are planning.

Capacity Building: The mentors are constantly working on bringing new children into the program and improving the program. Such initiatives this month have included:

- **Rockingham Area Community Land Trust (RACLT):** Representative from RACLT, the DREAM Office, and from the Windsor DREAM mentor base, met to discuss the future of DREAM at NAMCO Block, the current situation the program is in, and trade/share information to better programming for the DREAM families and the Windsor community.
- **Mentor Meeting:** During one of the Wednesday night weekly mentor meetings, the group decided that they needed more children in the DREAM Program. After much discussion, the group was excited to start taking on new children who live in the River St. / Jarvis St. area of Windsor. The next steps are to also work with school teachers and guidance counselors in State St School to find children in that area that are in need of a mentor.

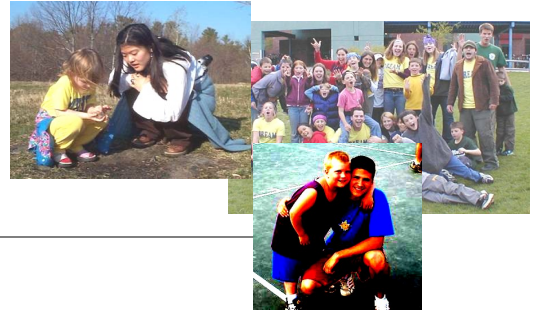
Alumni Involvement: DREAM prides itself on its dedicated alumni network (graduated mentors). This network leverages its growing financial and knowledge resources for the program and children. This month, the alumni network was involved by:

- **Welcoming the seniors to the Alumni Org!** The transition from April to May saw the active Dartmouth College Seniors transition from being DREAMers to being members of DREAM’s Alumni Organization. There was a sendoff barbeque, complete with an



The DREAM Program, Inc.

P.O. Box 361
Winooski, VT 05404
(802) 655-9015 tel
(802) 654-8598 fax
www.dreamprogram.org



explanation of leadership opportunities within the Alumni Org and personalized gifts for each senior!

Other: The DREAM Central Office always has a number of projects and activities in the works, so here's the section for those updates, and any other random pieces of information. (Evaluations, Central Office updates, outside of Friday time, etc. – include link if appropriate or attach directly to report, and bullet a couple highlights out).

- **Governor's Awards:** Two mentors from the Northwoods/Hollowdrive DREAM Program were recognized this year by Governor Jim Douglas for Outstanding Contributions in Community Service. Lindsay Deane and Dylan Nelson have been incredibly devoted mentors with a commitment to DREAM families that is well above and beyond the call of duty. We are so proud that they have been recognized for their passion and hard work!
- **Hiring and Expansion for 2008-2009!:** Postings for DREAM's 12 open AmeriCorps positions and one permanent Camp Director position in the following year are available and a location for next year's Satellite Office has been selected. The lucky city? Bennington, Vermont! DREAM's Satellite office will work to serve/start-up DREAM programs at Castleton, Williams, Green Mountain, and Bennington College.
- **Teen Identity Retreat:** Camp DREAM will be hosting DREAM's first ever Teen Identity Retreat May 10th and 11th! Teens and mentors from all over the state will be invited to this event to discuss topics like body image, healthy relationships, self-respect, self-esteem, and future choices. Among the presenters will be Hannah from Start Where you are VT to talk about Future Choices. Stay tuned next month to hear how it goes!
- **2006-2007 Annual Report completed!:** Check it out at <http://www.dreamprogram.org/blog/2008/04/2007-annual-report.html>

Remember, please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or ideas, and past monthly reports can always be accessed at:

http://www.dreamprogram.org/documents/Local_Programs/Program_Reports/Monthly_Reports/_Web/!

Keep DREAMing!

Nicole Walsh
Programs Director, Teen Coordinator