



The DREAM Program, Inc.

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May 22nd, 2006

Northwoods/Hollow Drive DREAM Update April 2006

The month of April was incredibly full for the Northwoods/Hollow Drive DREAM Program. With summer on the horizon DREAM activities have taken to the outdoors of Dartmouth campus, High Adventure planning is in full gear, and the anticipation of summer DREAM activities – Camp DREAM and Summer Interns – is great!

This month, mentors structured time with their partners on Friday around a number of physical sports to help get the group of DREAMers outdoors and active. In addition to this, DREAM mentors have been doing research on the positive influences of establishing hobbies at a young age. Hobbies help children and youth refocus energy away from behaviors that yield negative outcomes and redirect it towards more constructive activities (sports, arts, skill development, career aspirations, etc...). Mentors have been putting their heads together along with the kids to help determine potential interest areas that might be developed during DREAM time.

Mentors have continued their outreach to DREAM families that are in need of extra support by cooking dinners with families occasionally and spending extra time in conversation with parents. In the wake of this surge of family support DREAM mentors are also seeking to have conversations with parents to clearly define the role of DREAM in their lives. These conversations will provide mentors and parents a chance to layout their expectations and hopes for the future of DREAM and will clarify the difference between DREAM and other organizations.

A group of DREAM mentors have come together to discuss the need amongst DREAM young adults to have a more structured and comprehensive sex education program. Using available resources and connections - Mitchell Ermentrout '04 (Dartmouth Medical student), Jon Hopper (DREAM mentor and Sex Ed Peer Advisor), and local community partners - this group is aiming to put together a curriculum of workshops that might be implemented throughout the year. This programming will be created in communication with DREAMer's families and schools to make sure that programming is constructed and implemented appropriately. Stay tuned for updates on the development of this exciting new aspect of DREAM.

In addition to all this, DREAM mentors are also looking to reinvigorate the group's bank account by planning a number of fundraisers. This month mentors worked with a number of local businesses to organize a very successful raffle. Additionally a number of plans are in the works: a fundraising evening at the Canoe Club, a giant Chili Cookoff, and a culminating BBQ/fundraiser with the children to be sponsored by the Tri-Kap Fraternity and La Alianza Latina (a Dartmouth student group).



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On the High Adventure front – 21 tickets to Los Angeles have been purchased by the incredibly hard working group of 15 children and 6 mentors! It is an incredibly exciting time for everyone involved in the planning of this trip! The trip itinerary will be completely finalized by next month – mentors and children have split up the schedule and are sharing the responsibility of planning activities for the group in each destination. Two amazing High Adventure events are on the horizon for early May, as well: On May 5th the group is going to participate in the Relay for Life to work together and raise money for Cancer research. This is an opportunity for mentors and children to come together for community service related to an issue that is close to home for many members of the group. The group is also planning a fundraiser BBQ for parents weekend.

The DREAM Office is also excited to be hiring and planning for the summer of 2006! After an incredibly competitive hiring process it is exciting to bring together two amazing summer interns who will be working with the Northwoods and Hollow Drive communities. Stay tuned for information about orientation, training, and summer plans at the White River Junction community.

Camp DREAM is also currently undergoing construction, gearing up for the summer months of free residential programming for DREAMers across the state. Central Office staff has been visiting DREAM families to invite all DREAM children over the age of 8 to attend overnight camp sessions. Out of the 134 children invited to Camp this summer from 8 different DREAM Programs, 18 of them are from the Northwoods and Hollow Drive communities.

Keep DREAMing!
Kristin Burdge
Programs Liaison