



**The DREAM Program, Inc.**

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

January 12th, 2007



**Northwoods/Hollow Drive DREAM Update  
October/November/December 2006**

Holiday greetings from DREAM! Here is a summary of the exciting events and developments that occurred during the fall quarter. The quarter flew by with a flurry of activity: new mentors were recruited, several big events energized the program, and a Thanksgiving potluck closed up the term with a family feel!

Highlights from this quarter include:

- The return of the annual Chili Cookoff!
- A Halloween party thrown for DREAM by another campus organization
- Recruiting 37 new mentors to split with the Northwoods/Hollow Drive DREAM Program

**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 quarter, Friday programming included:

- An elaborate Halloween Friday with trick-or-treating at all the Greek organizations on Webster Ave. and a Halloween party hosted by the African-American Society and the Cutter/Shabazz house. Bobbing for apples was a huge, wet hit!
- Salon days for the older ladies with manicures and hair styling.
- A program-wide soccer game on the Hanover green open to mentees of all ages and their mentors.

**Special Events for Children:** Special events included:

- Teen DREAM: The beginning of the first ever teen programming for Armory Square, in conjunction with Northwoods/Hollow Drive's teens from White River Junction. The group kicked off their new identity with an evening of cosmic bowling at Upper Valley Lanes & Games in White River Junction where around 15 teen DREAMers from Northwoods/Hollow Drive safely bowled their way to victory on a Friday night!

**LABs/Parental Involvement:** Parents, mentors, and other community members frequently connect to learn more about each other, build trust, discuss ideas and issues, and build stronger lines of communication. This quarter:

- Mentors communicated regularly with parents at pickup and dropoff times on Friday, in addition to monthly fliers and phone calls during the week to check in.
- Mentors working with one family have been meeting with their support teams and connecting the family with more community resources to help keep the family well supported and healthy.



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**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 quarter:

- Mentors and five kids from Northwoods brought back the annual chili cook-off and worked with a few Armory Square mentors to raise around \$1500 by selling chili tickets and a ton of DREAM shirts! Several bands and a capella groups donated their time to help bring in the crowds.

**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. This quarter,

- The program took a few hours as a group to come together and share a community dinner in celebration of Thanksgiving. Mentees worked on dishes with their mentors, some of the older mentors brought their own recipes and ingredients, and everyone took a moment to share what was important to them about the fall term with DREAM this year!

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

- 37 new mentors recruited through a joint effort with Northwoods/Hollow Drive mentors, including a 100-guest information session, interviews, deliberations and then acceptance or new mentors just before Thanksgiving! New mentors were welcomed with a surprise raid, costumes, learning 'Purple Stew' (DREAM's favorite song), and some DREAM true stories from mentors just before finals upon returning from the holiday weekend.
- Lastly, this fall quarter the group lost four kids to new homes, but was able to bring in two more mentees to round off their total of 35 matches!

**Mentor Training:** The DREAM Central Office is in close communication with the mentors as to their individual and group needs. The Office continues to develop training modules to fit the mentors' needs, and encourages them to go on retreats and have other bonding events – it is important for the children and mentors to have a tight and energized mentor group. This quarter, training activities included:

- Staffers have been working with local partners on an advisory board to increase the cultural diversity resources available to our mentors. The advisory board was created to advise the implementation of funds from a new grant specifically geared towards training mentors of refugee families. As a result four workshops focused on New American topics are being held to train and recruit mentors for New American families as well as Program Directors—staffers and Chittenden County mentors will participate in each workshop!
- DREAM has also dedicated a number of staff hours to growing our connectedness to other outside resources at the Agency of Human Services, the United Way, and Burlington's



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Center for Community and Neighborhoods to better serve mentors in their concerns about cultural diversity.

**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 quarter, the alumni network was involved by:

- The DREAM Alumni Organization (composed of past mentor graduates from the DREAM program) also began a round of grants for the end of the 2006 year. Each program is encouraged to apply for funding for a dynamic programming idea of interest to the children and mentors.
- The Alumni Organization also kicked off its Alumni Appeal, with the goal of raising \$7,000 for Alumni grants towards the programs and Alumni reunions.

**Camp Specific:** DREAM's beautiful 50 acre camp is a resource for everyone involved in the program. It is equipped to run program and overnights all seasons. Activities at camp this quarter included:

- Many workdays with staff, IBM crews, and groups of mentors from all over Vermont to do trail work, some gardening, small construction projects, and finally put the roof on the Treehouse before the first snows fell!



- Preparations for Winter Adventure Camp's programming are well underway—Northwoods/Hollow Drive has chosen the Safari theme to explore different cultures and regions of the world with their program in late January!

### Other:

- The DREAM Central Office is completing the Americorps National and State grants due in January with the intention of expanding to a staff of around 20 next year. With an expanded



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office, The DREAM Program, Inc. is jazzed to refine its model and be able to begin working in other states within the next few years!

Ideas of High Adventure reunions are still being tossed around and should happen soon! Remember that past monthly reports can always be accessed at:

[http://www.dreamprogram.org/documents/Local\\_Programs/Program\\_Reports/Monthly\\_Reports/ Web/](http://www.dreamprogram.org/documents/Local_Programs/Program_Reports/Monthly_Reports/Web/)

Keep DREAMing!

Kristin Burdge  
Programs Director