



The DREAM Program, Inc.  
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April 14th, 2008



## Northwoods/Hollow Drive and Dartmouth College DREAM Update March 2008

Greetings from DREAM! Here is a summary of the exciting events and developments that occurred in the Northwoods/Hollow Drive DREAM program during March.

March flew by as Dartmouth's winter term ended and the spring term began, bringing back several fondly missed mentors who spent the winter studying abroad in Barcelona, Prague, and Rome among other exotic locales. Mentor matches were reunited to share souvenirs and stories and enjoy the last days of winter in the snowy Upper Valley.

Highlights from this month include:

- Electing two amazing new co-chairs!
- A terrific Culminating Experience trip to the Ben & Jerry's winter festival!

**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 cooking, movies and manicures, playing in the Dartmouth gym, pool and foosball, and High Adventure planning with the older children.

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

- **Culminating Experience!** Mentors Kerola and Emily created an amazing day of fun for the kids of the Northwoods and Hollow Drive communities. The DREAM group chartered a bus from Hanover all the way to Waterbury, the location of the famous Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream factory. At the factory, mentor matches learned how ice cream is made and packaged, how new flavors are invented and tested, and a little bit about the grassroots beginnings of one of Vermont's most iconic exports. They also got to sample one of the newest flavours: Ben & Jerry's Birthday Yellow Cake Batter with swirls of chocolate frosting! Yum.
- **The Environmental Media Project** continued with its four Northwoods/Hollow Drive participants! The last Saturday in March the two groups of documentarians ventured to Montpelier for the Green Mountain Film Festival for three short documentaries. They bravely posed some of the most direct and honest questions at the directors' panel afterwards.

**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:

- **Date Auction Planned!** As the Dartmouth DREAM High Adventure trip to Florida approaches, mentors and mentees planned a fun date auction for early April. Mentees will



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introduce their mentors and mentors will show off talents such as singing, juggling, and hoola hooping. Groups of friends can bid to spend some time with their favorite DREAM mentor and support the upcoming Florida adventure at the same time!

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

- **Co-chair Election:** Drum roll please...Northwoods/Hollow Drive mentors elected sophomores Jensen Lowe and Ned Kennedy to act as co-chairs for the Spring and Summer terms. Jensen and Ned are excited to focus on improving connections between mentors and the families they work with, making sure that every interested kid in each community has the chance to join DREAM, and creating strong matches for mentees whose mentors will graduate at the end of this term.

**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).

- **Children of Incarcerated Parents Grant:** The Central Office is looking for the most sensitive and informative way to determine which youth DREAM works with that are children of incarcerated parents. A large federal initiative to work with these youth is the basis for this inquiry—any suggestions on how to gather this information are welcome!
- **2006-2007 Annual Report:** This long-awaited report is nearing completion and should be out to everyone next month with highlight from DREAM's past two years.
- **Hiring for 2008-2009!:** To kick off the month of April, postings for DREAM's 12 open AmeriCorps positions and one permanent Camp Director position in the following year are available (see the website for all our postings)—in the mean time you can find Office Staff scurrying around, envisioning the next organizational structure for the DREAM Office, and looking towards creating Ambassador positions to start the next DREAM Office somewhere in the North Eastern region.

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/!](http://www.dreamprogram.org/documents/Local_Programs/Program_Reports/Monthly_Reports/Web/)

Keep DREAMing!

Eddie Rhoads

Programs Director, Teen Coordinator