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November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009

## **The Madison Park DREAM Update October 2009**

The Madison Park DREAM Program started to take shape during the month of October. We have recruited 14 mentors to start DREAM at Northeastern and Madison Park Village. From the initial group of Northeastern students that expressed interest these 14 students, are the ones who have decided that they want to make a difference in a child's life and are willing to commit 4-5 hours every week for the rest of their college career to DREAM to do so!

### **Mentor Recruitment/Training:**

A majority of October was spent recruiting, training, collecting the necessary paperwork from mentors, while working with them to form a sense of group identity. Throughout the month, the group met once or twice a week to learn about DREAM's history, program model, and Child Theory of Change (<http://www.dreamprogram.org/about/evaluations.htm>). Additionally, mentors received training in basic child management skills, DREAM's mentor boundaries and guidelines, and driving procedures. In this time mentors also decided what days they would hold their mentor meetings and what days they would program with children. The mentors have decided to hold DREAM weekly programming with the children on Tuesday afternoons and have their weekly mentor meetings on Wednesdays from 12:30-1:15PM.

### **DREAM Programming:**

Towards the end of October mentors were ready and eager to get into the community and meet children and families. The mentors decided to hold a parent meeting on Tuesday October 27<sup>th</sup> and to handout flyers about their first afternoon of programming set for Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The week prior to the parent meeting I mailed letters to families that had expressed interest in DREAM inviting them to attend the meeting.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> mentors walked over from Northeastern to Madison Park Village. They stopped by the apartments of families that had received letters to remind them about the parent meeting and to handout the flyers. They were able to talk to most of the parents and meet a few of the children, but the majority of the parents could not attend the meeting. One mother and her two children came to the meeting and were able to meet the mentors, learn more about DREAM, and play some games. We are hoping that more children will come out for the first onsite activity on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. I have communicated to the mentors that it may take a few weeks of running programming every Tuesday before we are able to get a consistent group of children.

### **Special Events:**

On October 26<sup>th</sup>, supporters of DREAM hosted a FRIENDraiser on Union Warf. This FRIENDraiser was an opportunity for DREAM to introduce our dynamic model to potential

supporters and funders in a personal, professional, and vibrant way. The event was a major success, bringing together individuals from foundations, colleges, community organizations, and housing and development groups.

Keep DREAMing!

Chad Butt,  
Boston Programs Director