



**The DREAM Program, Inc.**

P.O. Box 361  
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[www.dreamprogram.org](http://www.dreamprogram.org)



**The Norwich/Highgate & Green Acres DREAM Update  
October & November 2005**

Greetings from DREAM! Here is a summary of the exciting events and developments that occurred during October and November. You can always look back at past monthly reports or other programs' reports by going to: <http://www.dreamprogram.org/about/localprograms.htm>. And please, do not hesitate to contact us with questions or ideas.

School year DREAM programming got off the ground in the months of October and November, with a handful activities and Friday programs taking place at the Highgate community center.

Highlights from these months include:

- The first DREAM Friday at Highgate,
- Continued fun filled Friday programming in November, and
- Young mentors stepping up into leadership positions of the 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. In October and November, Friday program took place onsite, at Highgate in the community center, with the goal of get to know the children better and the children and families to get to know the mentors better. Friday activities included:

- The mentors going door-to-door to introduce themselves and invite children and families to a spaghetti dinner up in the community center,
- Making festive decoration and paper-mache turkeys, and
- An afternoon of charades and other great games in the community center.

For all of these Friday activities the mentors have brought together old DREAMers from the Green Acres community with new DREAMers from Highgate. It's been really exciting to grow the program to this new community, and mentors are working hard to make sure that all of the children have an equal chance to make DREAM their own.

**LABs/Parental Involvement:** Local Advisory Board (LAB) meetings are where parents, mentors, and other community members come together to learn more about each other, build trust, discuss ideas and issue, and build stronger lines of communication. In these months the mentors went door-to-door to introduce themselves and deliver more information about DREAM to the families. They also dropped off fliers for upcoming events at doors and encouraged parents to come up to the community center and participate in Friday activities.



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**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. In the month of November the mentors began talking about possible destinations for their end of the year culminating trip. Last year the group went to NYC for a weekend and this year the group is leaning towards a possible trip to Washington D.C. for the end of Spring 2007.

**Capacity Building:** The mentors are constantly working on bringing new children into the program and improving the program. Such initiatives over the last two months have included:

- The mentor group growing to 8 mentors,
- Holding Friday programming at Highgate to get to know the children better before the mentors bring a few children on into the school year DREAM program, when they will start bring children back to Norwich University for Friday DREAMs.

**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. Over the last two months Chad Butt, Programs Director, and Jen Lazar, Director of Resource Development, have met with mentors as a group and one-on-one to discuss organizational matters and encourage leadership development. Many new mentors have stepped up as leaders. Their dedication to building DREAM both at the Highgate community and on the Norwich Campus is clear. The group has many great ideas of where they want to take their program in the coming months, and their developing leadership structure is setting them up to accomplish them all!

Look forward to more information about DREAM's growth at the Highgate community at Norwich University. Mentors have opened a discussion with Norwich administrators about bringing the DREAM Bus to campus – so stay tuned for information on its arrival!

Please feel free to contact the DREAM office at anytime with any questions or ideas. We'd love to hear from you!

Keep DREAMing!

Chad Butt  
Programs Director