



The DREAM Program, Inc.

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**Norwich DREAM Update
May 2007**

Greetings from DREAM!

Even though the school year program has ended for the year, things have not slowed down in the world of DREAM. The month was spent gearing up for our summer interns to begin, getting prepared for a summer out at Camp DREAM, congratulating graduating seniors and thinking about the future of the DREAM office and the organization on a whole.

DREAM has hired nine mentors to work for the summer as D-Unit Interns. Each intern will work in a "pod" of three and will be responsible for providing programming for three of our DREAM communities both in solo and group settings. The dunits (this is what we affectionately nickname our interns) will be working five days a week and thus will be in every community at least three days a week. Norwich University Junior Maggie Ringey will be spending her summer working specifically with Highgate and we couldn't be more excited to have her on board!

The weekend of May 10-12, five of the D-unit interns along with five office support staff headed up to Camp DREAM for the first part of their summer retreat. The weekend included a great deal of group bonding and team building, a group work project and lots of planning and brainstorming about programming for the summer. A lot of time was spent developing different activity ideas for the summer and discussing how to go about planning for these ideas. The interns also got a chance to set the tone for the summer by generating expectations of each other and goals to accomplish with our DREAM communities. Group goals included fundraising with each community, getting all children in the community involved in programming, working on tolerance and acceptance, working on hygiene, focusing on outdoor education, broadening horizons, and finding ways to include families in programming.

The office is extremely excited to have a mentor from each DREAM program working in their community for the summer. Some exciting local partnerships are in the works for the summer, as well. They include working with the Lake Champlain Sailing Center doing a number of group sails for our children, incorporating food programming provided by the Vermont Campaign to End Childhood Hunger, and creating a partnership with Sean McLaughlin, a semi professional angler, who wants to teach the children about bass fishing and take them out on his boat for some fishing!

Camp staff is gearing up in full force, getting ready for a summer at Camp DREAM! Four of our mentors have been hired to work alongside our three full time Camp staff to help run and plan an incredible summer. All children active in the school year DREAM program are eligible to attend either a 3 or 5 day session (depending on age) at Camp for free! Sessions are divided by age and gender and will be running for five weeks from the beginning of July through the beginning of



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August. Many fun projects are anticipated for the summer, including building a flatbread oven and stone barbecue with the help of the amazing folks at American Flatbread!

DREAM staff have been visiting communities regularly, signing up children for sessions and getting everyone excited for the summer. Seven children from Green Acres and our first DREAMer from Highgate will be invited to attend a Camp session this summer and we're thrilled to be up at Camp with them!

Now, for some extremely exciting news...the DREAM office will be expanding next year! DREAM was selected through a highly competitive process to become an AmeriCorps state program. With this grant, the DREAM Central Office will be expanding our staff to 19 people. With the larger staff, we will be taking on a handful of new initiatives. In regards to our local programs, we will be focusing more on new program start up and our current teen programming. On the Camp DREAM side of things, we will be hiring a Land Steward to care after the land of Camp and help to integrate the natural landscape more effectively into programming as well as hiring a few Camp-Program Liaisons whose focus will be to involve our mentors and children more effectively in Camp. On the development side of things, we will be hiring a Historian to help document more of what goes on in DREAM as well as a Vermont Network Coordinator who will help initiate and maintain connections throughout the state. We are really excited for this opportunity and have already undertaken the hiring process. We will be happy to update you as we progress.

Keep DREAMing and enjoy the sun!

Chad Butt
Programs Director
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