



The DREAM Program, Inc.
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The Northwoods/Hollow Drive DREAM Update November 2008

Greetings from DREAM! November was a great month...here is a summary of the events and developments that occurred. 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.

November brought cooler weather, shorter days and some incredible DREAM activities. Dartmouth mentors settled into school and brought exciting programming to the children of Northwoods and Hollow Drive. It was also a bit of a shorter month due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Highlights from this month include:

- A trip to Boston (see below for details)!
- A chili cook-off
- Selection of 26 new mentors to be integrated into the two Dartmouth DREAM programs

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 included three Fridays of programming:

- A chili cook-off to raise funds for future programming followed by one-on-one time with mentors.
- Two one-on-one afternoons focusing on fun and building solid relationships, as well as preparing for their Boston trip.

Special Programming: Perhaps the most exciting components of DREAM are its special programs planned by its mentors. These programs can include trips, end-of-semester culminating experiences and other new experiences that bring the entire group together. This month:

- Mentors boarded a bus with their mentees and traveled to Boston to go to the Museum of Science. The one day trip offered the group an opportunity see an indoor lightning show and see the history and functionality of many scientific inventions. The hands-on exhibits were a highlight to many of the mentees and mentors.

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:



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- Mentors and mentees held a chili cook-off for all Dartmouth students to attend and sold DREAM gear.

Capacity Building: The mentors are constantly working on bringing new children and mentors into the program and improving the program. In November, the mentor groups selected a pool of 26 mentors out of about 150 applicants to be a part of Dartmouth DREAM. Those new mentors will begin training in December and be integrated into the program next term.

Mentor Training: The DREAM Central Office is in close communication with the mentors as to their individual and group needs. The Office and the Dartmouth DREAMers have planned a training session for all new mentors to take place in December.

Camp: DREAM's beautiful 50 acre camp is a resource for everyone involved in the program. In November, DREAM Office Staff helped to raise the frame of a new pavilion. Mentors also began the planning process for Winter Adventure Camp!

Other: We have hired a new Program Empowerment Director, Jen Fabiano, who will be working with our programs in Burlington, Winooski and Middlebury. Check out her bio and the rest of the central office at: <http://www.dreamprogram.org/about/centraloffice.htm>.

Keep DREAMing!

Mike Ewan
Program Empowerment Director