



The DREAM Program, Inc.
P.O. Box 361
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The Highgate DREAM Update November 2009

Greetings from DREAM! The season of thanks was upon us and so were many exciting DREAM events and developments. Here is a summary of happenings that occurred in November of 2009. 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.

A great effort from both the Norwich students and Highgate children continues to make Highgate DREAM flourish.

Highlights from November include:

- New DREAM mentor-mentee matches
- DREAMStock, an annual mentor retreat
- A fabulous teen DREAM dance

Fridays: The core of DREAM happens every Friday when DREAM mentors meet with their partners in both group and one-on-one settings. The meetings occur on college campuses, onsite at the children's homes, and at spaces around the community. Programming for November included:

- A Friday to plan a community talent show at Norwich University
- The TALENT SHOW at the Highgate Community Center

Special Events for Children:

- The teen DREAM dance, an event held at Champlain College. Teen DREAMers from all over Vermont made the trip to Burlington to participate in a night of dancing, socializing, and all around ridiculousness!
- Teens joined their mentors and an alumnus of Norwich DREAM to take in a midnight movie premier in South Burlington!

Capacity Building:

The mentors are constantly working on improving the program, and part of that includes bringing new children and mentors into the program. In November, the mentors recruited one (1) more new mentor to bring themselves to a total of eighteen (18) mentors! The new mentors also partnered themselves with a child from Highgate creating more one-on-one matches or support for existing one-on-one matches.



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Mentor Training:

The DREAM Central Office is in close communication with the mentors in regard 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. In November, Mike Ewan, Program Director, continued to meet with the Norwich mentors each Tuesday night to discuss the direction and goals of the Highgate DREAM program. During these meetings, mentors planned a mentor retreat, which will take place in December, and will include a review of their goals as well as many other DREAM initiatives to improve their program. Mentors also attended DREAMstock (a statewide mentor retreat, at Camp DREAM in Fletcher, VT).

Camp:

DREAM's beautiful 50 acre camp is a resource for everyone involved in the program. It is equipped to run programs and overnights all seasons. The fall is a busy time at camp with many things going on, including:

- DREAMstock took place November 7th.
- Preparation for Winter Adventure Camp began.

Keep DREAMing!

Mike Ewan
Program Empowerment Director