



The DREAM Program, Inc.

P.O. Box 361
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www.dreamprogram.org



Franklin Street DREAM Update May 2008

Greetings from DREAM! Here is a summary of the exciting events and developments that occurred during the month of May. Even though mentors have finished with their classes for the summer, it doesn't mean DREAM stops! The DREAM Central Office has kept busy with different projects and gearing up for an amazing summer full of D-Unit on-site programming and camp sessions in Fletcher, Vermont at Camp DREAM!

Highlights from this month include:

- The Teen Identity Retreat!
- The first D-Unit Intern Retreat!
- Hiring Updates!

Special Events for Children: Special events included:

- Teen Identity Retreat: Camp DREAM will be hosted DREAM's first ever Teen Identity Retreat May 10th and 11th! 30 teens and a handful of mentors from six of DREAM's local programs across the state attended the weekend. Activities included discussions focused on healthy choices, being a teenager, being comfortable with oneself, self-confidence and self-esteem. Participants also worked on a 'Zine in which they were able to express themselves through art and writing. Everyone who went will be getting a copy to keep!

Alumni Involvement: DREAM prides itself on its dedicated alumni network (graduated mentors). This network leverages its growing financial and knowledge resources for the program and children. This month, the alumni network was involved by:

- Alumni BBQs – To celebrate our graduating seniors, the Alumni Organization and DREAM Central Office hosted two Alumni BBQ's in May – in both a northern and southern location. Each celebration had 10-15 seniors and a handful of staff and everyone ate good food, played games, received special "Alumni" t-shirts and learned more about how they can be a part of the Alumni Organization now that they have graduated. Congrats to all of our graduating seniors!!
- Alumni reunion –On Memorial Day Weekend, Camp DREAM and the Alumni Organization hosted the second annual DREAM Alumni reunion for former mentors and staff. About 27 people made it up for the weekend at Camp! Folks spent time touring camp and seeing all of our new and exciting developments, working on work projects, playing games, talking about the future of DREAM and the Alumni Organization and jamming on how DREAM can best support its children. The weekend was a blast – stay tuned for next years, which is sure to be even bigger and better than this year!



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D-Unit: D-Unit, DREAM's summer interns, are charged with running programming on-site in each of DREAM's communities during the summer in both a solo and group setting. This month, the D-Unit Interns:

- Attended the first of two pre-summer retreats! Seven of this summer's D-Unit Interns headed up to Camp for a weekend retreat! The retreat focused on getting interns to know each other, brainstorming about how to make an incredible summer and generating a vibe for a great summer! Opening celebrations will occur in each community the week of June 16-20. Stay tuned for some flyering!

Camp Specific: DREAM's beautiful 50 acre camp is a resource for everyone involved in the program. It is equipped to run program and overnights all seasons. Activities at camp this month included:

- Camp workday with B&J International – in May, 50 International Ben & Jerry's employees came up to camp with 8 DREAM Office Staff for a workday in Fletcher. Volunteers worked on several projects including the mosaic tiling around the flatbread oven, trail work, a new half log bridge, painting a new camp trail map, refinishing chairs for the garden and transporting materials for a new composting toilet. A lot of work was accomplished and the group had a great day!
- Camp forms – Camp staff throughout the month continued to visit communities and get camp forms filled out for all children who are invited to attend Camp DREAM this summer.

Office Updates: (Evaluations, Central Office updates, outside of Friday time, etc. – include link if appropriate or attach directly to report, and bullet a couple highlights out).

- Staff retreat – The DREAM staff held its spring retreat up at Camp DREAM at the beginning of the month. The retreat was a really good time for staff to get energized about the upcoming summer while also getting to spend a little bit of time reflecting on the past 8 months and all of the organization's accomplishments. Time was also spent talking about the hiring and staffing structure for next year.
- AmeriCorps state conference – At the beginning of the month, all 18 DREAM Inc staff headed to the Stoweflake Resort in Stowe, VT for a two-day AmeriCorps State Conference. All AmeriCorps members in the state were invited to attend the conference, experience different workshops and sessions, network with other members and relax a little bit. A few DREAM staff members even presented workshops at the conference.
- Job Descriptions & Hiring Updates – Hiring for the upcoming year is in full swing. Currently, the DREAM Central Office is hiring for several AmeriCorps positions, the Camp Director position and the Associate Executive Director position. Check out the positions here <http://www.dreamprogram.org/resources/jobs.htm>.
- New T-shirts. DREAM has ordered new t-shirts! The new shirts are sweatshop free and made of organic cotton and come in some great new colors. Check 'em out!



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- Statewide Mobius mentoring conference – Five of the DREAM office staff attended the annual Mobius Mentoring Conference! With Governor Jim Douglas there to kick off the event, this year's conference focused on evaluating mentor matches, best training practices for mentors, and fundraising ideas and methods for programs.

Remember, please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or ideas, and past monthly reports can always be accessed at:

http://www.dreamprogram.org/documents/Local_Programs/Program_Reports/Monthly_Reports/Web/!

Keep DREAMing!

Nicole Walsh
Programs Director, Teen Coordinator