



Last Days of Fall  
Edition 2005

# Keep DREAMing

The DREAM Program's Quarterly Newsletter  
[www.dreamprogram.org](http://www.dreamprogram.org)

## 80 Mentors, 5 Colleges *together at DREAMstock*

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While all DREAMers create their adventures, mentors are the core directors. As office staff, we support their ideas, help them network with others, and throw out useful relics from our institutional memory. However, despite our good looks and playful nature, we find that the best creativity catalyst is mentor to mentor discussion. This is DREAMStock!

We love watching students realize there are other DREAMers all over Vermont (and Hanover, New Hampshire). They meet mentors from other programs on the big blue bus, riding out to Camp DREAM in Fletcher. This year, we had joyous reunions among mentors who had met at previous DREAM events. These relationships and the collective experiences charge the energy at DREAMStock and augment every mentor's resources.

Upon their Friday night arrival, everyone was fed a virtually waste free dinner and led to their campsites to retreat as individual programs, planning the year's goals around camp fires. Then, we brought everyone together in the amphitheater for skits and the camp legend. The morning session was rated the favorite piece of the event. Mentors each attended a workshop, choosing from: *building local, capable networks; Friday programs; outdoor recreation; recruiting; High Adventure; re-energizing programs; child management; Local Advisory Boards (community building in neighborhoods)*. These sessions brought people from many programs together to discuss ideas, common

problems, and proven strategies on the work they all do at their local sites.

DREAMStock is a wild success because mentors get excited and learn *from* and *with* each other. DREAM thrives on this type of group development, which is something that we believe is essential for healthy communities and happy people.

*Mentors at DREAMStock '05, Camp DREAM in Fletcher, Vermont*



**Still shopping for the holidays? Send someone a DREAM gift.**

You could give bio-diesel fuel for the DREAM bus, a camp scholarship for a DREAM kid, yellow DREAM T-shirts for mentees, or many other gift options in honor of your special person. We'll design and send you a personal card or we can send it straight out. Contact Daniel: [Daniel@dreamprogram.org](mailto:Daniel@dreamprogram.org), 802-655-9015.

**Happy Holidays from the DREAM Office!**

Mike  
Kristin  
Chad  
Jen  
Chris  
Elizabeth  
David Lu  
Daniel

# From the Southeast corner of the office...

Hi! I hope you enjoyed this Fall. DREAM has grown in many directions this year. Thank you for being a part of these developments. Your involvement in this program is the core of DREAM's supportive community, encouraging all of us to expand expectations and dream big.

This newsletter updates you on some major Fall events and current DREAM initiatives. You will find examples of what kids and mentors are exploring together. I am inspired by each local program's goals and the fun created on the way. They repeatedly demonstrate that DREAM really works!

In my experience with DREAM, every kid, mentor, or central office person gets something out of this program. None of us are here just to do a good deed. We grow together through the challenges and experiences we create in this community we form. In a way, I see DREAM as a microcosm of a successful society. We come together for each other and for ourselves, building friendship and adventuring.

If you are not involved in DREAM as much as you would like, I want to help you get in touch with current or past DREAMers, help out at Camp or with programs, get specific updates on programs or events, or anything else you can imagine. Increasing our community's diversity benefits each of us. Contact me about which of these updates spark your interest and with ideas or questions.

Enjoy this exciting news and be in touch.

Daniel Shearer  
Communications Director

It is hard for me to believe that I have only been with DREAM since March of 2005. Rarely do you join an organization and in less than a year, feel like you have always been a part of it. That is exactly how DREAM

is. From the first day in the office to the first Friday DREAM I attended and in meeting the mentors and kids and parents, every DREAMer has been welcoming and encouraging. It is impossible to share with you how incredible the experience has been for me so far. I am so happy and proud to be among so many amazing people who care so much. But, enough about me.

DREAM has had an amazing year and even though we are near the end of 2005, it just seems to keep getting better. On Tuesday, November 29, DREAM closed on the Conservation Easement with the Vermont Land Trust, thus securing the camp property with a perpetual easement. The closing culminated a process that began in 2004 when DREAM first started working with the Vermont Housing Conservation Board and The Vermont Land Trust to purchase property for a summer residential camp for DREAM children. Over the past several months DREAM received all of the necessary permits to begin the development of the facilities on the property, including our Conditional Use Permit from the town of Fletcher, our Wastewater Permit and most importantly, our Act 250 permit.

We want to thank Jesse Foote for everything he did to make this possible. We would also like to thank everyone at Heindel and Noyse, the Vermont Land Trust and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board for all of the work and assistance they have provided to DREAM throughout this process. Finally, we would like to thank you. The support that DREAM receives from our extended DREAM family is overwhelming and really does allow us to do what we do. The Camp closing and permit process are just a few of the many things that occurred at DREAM over the past several months. I encourage you to grab another cup of coffee or tea, sit back and enjoy the rest of this newsletter.

Mike Loner  
Executive Director



*Mike and Daniel in the DREAM Central Office, Winooski, VT*

# CAMP DREAM!

## THE DREAM PROGRAM'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

This past summer, just over 70 DREAM children (from all 7 of our local programs) had the chance to spend their days swimming, canoeing, mountain biking, traipsing around on our hiking trails, and catching frogs in puddles. Without Anne, Ashley, Josh, and Kristin as our permanent summer staff, Camp would not have been nearly as magical. Check out some of their favorite memories:

Working at Camp was like winning the lottery...It was the best way to possibly spend a summer. Countless friendships were made between campers, volunteers, and staff...Late night fires, mid-afternoon swims, camp T-shirts, smiles, noodle activities, Marshallese friends, tubing the mighty Lamoille, and shepherds pie wraps will forever be in my heart.

-Josh Warren, Camp Iron Chef and Champlain Mentor

My favorite memory from working at Camp DREAM has to be creating a special bond with every child. I will never forget the day that I got a thank you from a girl for being the person that she wants to be. She told me that I was her inspiration. Needless to say, we gave each other our contact info and we still keep in touch.

-Ashley O'Bryan, Summer Program Director and Champlain Mentor

After a campfire, I led a boisterous troop of eleven year old boys to campsite Sueno to get ready for bed. I held the lantern up in front of one of the tents as the boys scrambled to find their flashlights and toothbrushes. The light illuminated a magnificent spider web wet with dew. As the boys gathered around to admire it, a large white moth got caught in the web. All eyes were fixated on the web and jaws dropped as we watched the spider scurry out to deal with his catch. We witnessed the spider paralyze the moth, wrap it up and spin the bundle around in his web - all just a few inches from our eyes. I'll never forget that moment of pure amazement as we stood in the darkness together, witnessing one of nature's tiny miracles at Camp.

-Anne Fletcher, Waterfront Director and St. Mikes Mentor

Metcalf Pond was a popular place that day, as it was really hot. Wayne, one of the boys from Birchwood, was hesitant to get in the water because he did not know how to swim. I offered to help and mentioned that I was a lifeguard who had taught many other kids to swim. He seemed set on just wading in the shallows. But, after a few minutes of watching the other kids swimming around, he requested lessons. Wayne was very proud, making so much progress that day. He put his face in the water, kicked, and swam on his stomach and back. After mastering each skill, he demonstrated it for the counselors and other kids. He was the last out of the water, finding swimming his passion for the rest of the week.

-Kristin Beattie, Program Director and St. Mikes Mentor

### The WAC Days Cometh...

In the next month, we're finalizing our preparations for Winter Adventure Camp with the creation of three "themed" weekend sessions. One of these sessions will be called "Pirate Adventure," and it will focus on outdoor skills and, conveniently, adventure! We'll also have costumes, pirate jokes, a parrot named Flapjack, and a night-time hike to "Davy Jones's Island." Another session will be called, "Olympic Extravaganza," and it will feature a day full of competition and teamwork, with events ranging from sled bowling and human dog sled races to tug-of-war and snow sculpture contests. Each local DREAM program will have the opportunity to choose a theme and create their own session, and it is our hope that each program will feel empowered to make WAC their own, and that they will leave Camp feeling ever more connected to DREAM and each other.

Hey! If anything about this page intrigues you, inspires you, or just gives you a warm feeling of longing to be sledding down big hills this winter or kayaking across the pond next summer, send us an [e-mail](#)! We love to talk about Camp, and we'd love your help!

...See more answers on page 6...

## Why does the office do DREAM? *(Camp Staff)*



Lu

I could answer this question so many different ways. I could talk about the people I admire who have made this organization what it is. I could talk about social justice, and the call to service that I think we all feel to one degree or another. I could talk about my freshman year of college, and how I happened to join DREAM just as it was starting, and how it helped me learn and grow. I could talk about Camp, and all the inspiring things that happen there. But the simplest answer is that I do DREAM because it gives me the opportunity to race around and be silly and play with crazy, beautiful, radiant children. They are amazing, and they love DREAM, and so do I.

I do DREAM because, at the heart of everything, I believe that we have not yet created a world that is consistent with what we know our society should be, and DREAM is a perfect step in the right direction. I do DREAM because I believe that, while our society purports to be meritocratic, it is only through the consistent and uniform application of both education and social services that it will ever truly be so. I do DREAM because of the simple joy of seeing a child become fascinated with a frog in a puddle on a Camp trail. I do



Chris

DREAM because of the mentors who expand their own horizons as much as they expand those of the children with whom they work. DREAM has connected me with some of the most incredible mentors, children, and families I could ever imagine meeting, and the fact that DREAM attracts these sorts of folks only serves to convince me that this is the place I want to be.



David

You mean there is a job out there that will allow me to build tree houses, design ropes courses, plant wild gardens, and play outside with some of the most inspiring, crazy, and cleverly wise kids in Vermont? DREAM not only dovetails my interests and values, it also provides me a space to learn—from fifty enchanting acres, from staff and mentors, and from amazing dreamers. The DREAM Program inspires imagination in all it touches. And, I've discovered in the first few weeks on the job, DREAM is rockin' my creative side, too.

# Oh, The Places They're Going Mike Foote, DREAM Alum



I just met up for lunch with Chris Hicks, one of the first kids to join DREAM back in 1999, to talk college. He's a senior at Hartford High and called our meeting himself via email:

**“Hey Mike it's me Chris. I have a favor to ask. It's my last year in high school and I was thinking about going to college. I was looking into Castleton. Do you have any advice? It would be much appreciated. Thanks. ~Chris”**

Unbeknownst to Chris, I had been suffering DREAM withdrawal since I left the DREAM office three months ago, and was a little overeager to see him. However, as we sat down over Chinese Full-Moon Buffet, I quickly realized that the mountain

of preparation Chris had already done made my ability to add value to the process virtually impossible. So after a little hemming and hawing and head nodding on my part, it was selfishly nice that our conversation left colleges (which, by the way, are going to fight to have him) and took a turn down memory lane.

Chris out-remembered me on just about all fronts, though I could counter with the progress DREAM has made since Chris moved out of his DREAM site a couple years ago.

“Man, the first High Adventure trip,” he said, knowing I would understand the feeling he was talking about. “Yeah,” I replied. He recounted the two nights our pioneering crew had spent at the Great Sand Dunes, where Wayne complained that his tent was so junky he felt like he was sleeping in a plastic bag and millions of flies converged on our staple meal of hot dog bits and macaroni.

I laughed and then asked him if he knew that the latest High Adventure, this one organized by the UVM DREAM program, went to Alaska this past summer. “No way,” he said.

Chris talked a bit about Laura, his first DREAM partner, and their explorations around Dartmouth, bringing back my own flood of personal memories and feelings of being a mentor to Dakota (whom I joined on countless snake-hunting expeditions at the campus outskirts).

When DREAM began at Dartmouth in 1999, it was called “Templeton,” having started off as an onsite program at the Templeton Court Housing Community in White River Junction. Some of my fondest memories are of those first late night meetings in the Collis food court, scheming big as if planning for revolution.

Moving the program's activities to Dartmouth soon after its inception led Kathryn Ross to suggest the name “DREAM” from Langston Hughes' lines “Hold fast to dreams \ For if dreams die \ Life is a broken winged bird \ That cannot fly.” The first college campus event was a broomball / pizza / sledding afternoon on Occum Pond that resulted in a bloody knee (Magali) and sledding accidents (Courtney and Ryan), but overall fun times. Later that spring, DREAM held its first “culminating experience” – I remember returning from Boston after we successfully dropped off ALL of the kids at home and how the bus erupted in excitement, all the mentors knowing that something big had just been accomplished.

Today, trips like our first one to Boston are commonplace for the eight DREAM programs spread across Vermont. I

don't think Chris believed me when I told him that DREAM now owns a big blue bus that runs on waste vegetable oil and that can be used by any program at any time to go pretty much anywhere in the Northeast. (And DREAMers have gone just about everywhere.)

By the time I graduated college and left DREAM as a mentor, the program was struggling with what to offer the kids during the summer. Chris remembers the summer times as being somewhat unorganized, but still fun. He doesn't have the memories the kids have now, of summer interns living at each housing community and of the full-blown, free overnight summer camp, Camp DREAM, which is more often than not the highlight of a Dreamer's summer.

DREAM also now has an office and full time staff, though it still holds true to its core tenet of mentors running and owning their programs. The first mentors in DREAM haven't disappeared either – they are part of a growing Alumni Organization (headed up by Leah, Carly, Ed, and Elizabeth) which raises thousands of dollars a year to ensure that the memories they found so valuable will continue.

What makes me smile the most is knowing the sheer magnitude of memories that have been made since DREAM's inception, including many memories that the founding group of mentors have not been a part of, but still understand. It's the ultimate source of satisfaction for us old alumni and an ongoing source of pride.

As lunch wrapped up I offered to pay, and Chris just laughed. “Mike, I have a job.” “Oh, okay,” I replied, not telling him that I was currently unemployed or that some weird parental feeling had just sideswiped me, unknowingly. I hugged him and told him to study for his SATs. To which he replied, “I already am.” At that moment, I imagined Chris as a great DREAM mentor the following year.

And as I was putting miles between myself and him and DREAM, I couldn't help but ponder the question which many of us alumni still think about: what's next for DREAM?

Our lunch had been a testament of DREAM's real power – intertwining people's lives so strongly that one person's success is another's. And DREAM's model of providing a supportive forum in which individuals can test the waters with their own ideas and creative energies has resonated with a lot of people. I know that if DREAM continues to receive the support it has over the past few years, the pool of talent amongst the mentors, kids, alumni, and staff will continue to catapult the program to new heights. When I wonder where DREAM will be in a few years, it is not hard to imagine it in other states. In fact, I was recently informed that an email came into the office from a DREAM alumna's sister at Tufts who wants to start a DREAM. Wouldn't that be nice for us all to say? That we helped create this amazing, national program called DREAM.

# “It’s a Little Bit Funny, this Feeling Inside...”

Amira Bakr (UVM) & Katie Wiseman (Champlain)

If you spend nine hours a day, six days a week, for two and a half months with over one hundred children, there is no telling what might happen. Our experience led us to chaos and smiles, new faces, crying and cuddling, and memorable adventures as DREAMers of all ages, from across Vermont, celebrated the summer amidst new and old friendships. What this summer meant for the DREAM program is difficult to convey in words. The hard work of establishing, nurturing, and directing DREAM proved successful as mentees, mentors, and families made the most of the good weather, summer programs, and CAMP.

We, two of seven DREAM summer interns (a.k.a. D-Unit), had a share in the summer programming. Our work introduced DREAM to new kids in our communities, offered summer excitement, and brought all of Vermont’s DREAMers together. June first brought four strangers to 105 Elmwood in the middle of the day. Josie, Melissa, Amira, and I, Katie, sat on the front porch, anxiously waiting for our summer to begin. Although I did not know it then, these three DREAMers, and our three southern D-Unit counterparts, whom I soon met, were to be my sources of strength, support, and understanding. We quickly grew to confide in one another of challenging frustrations such as children not listening, or feeling overwhelmed with creating appropriate, fun, and interesting programming. The office could not have chosen seven more intelligent, strong, and empathetic individuals to serve these fulfilling positions. I fully believe that this summer would not have happened if one of us had been absent. No matter how many ways I attempt to explain the good fortune I encountered with my co-D-Units, there is no way to express the love and admiration that fill me without crying.

The summer was not without tears and sweat, but was rich in song, smiles, jokes, and friendship. No doubt, it was exciting! Our end-of-the-summer trip to Maine is an outstanding memory. The caravan departed Elm St. early Friday morning with some of the Birchwood, Elm St., Green Acres, and Forest Park DREAMers. DREAMers from Armory Square and Northwoods/Hollow Drive joined the bandwagon as we headed east. After seven hours of driving, we somehow ended up at the ocean along the Maine coast. The kids went crazy, diving into waves and punching them as they approached! Watching children encounter the ocean for the first time was remarkable; their eyes were open wide and we could not help but smile. Having returned to the river by our campsite for kayaking, canoeing, swimming, and pasta, it was time for a campfire complete with a game of Mafioso led by storyteller Becky of Green Acres. As the D-Unit crew sat back and watched these DREAM kids bond and celebrate their newfound friendships, we could not help but feel that this summer had accomplished something like never before—



Mariah Seymour at the ocean

bringing young DREAMers together. This kind of DREAM unity is significant because, for many DREAMers, it may mark their first interaction with peers from different communities in Vermont. It filled us with happiness to see these young DREAMers sharing together, and learning from each other’s unique perspectives and life’s experiences. Moments like these remind us of why we DREAM.

For me, Amira, the most incredible aspect of the summer was getting to know and love so many beautiful children. The

DREAM Program consists of over one hundred and fifty incredible, funny, loving, and sincere kids who are the heart of our program. DREAM is for them, and it is through this program that mentors, parents, and friends, have been brought together to love and support these children in achieving their dreams. It is the kids’ initiatives, sense of adventure, and hope for the future that fuels the DREAM program, and this summer was evidence of just that. I have to say, I did not know it was humanly possible to love so much, until this summer.

## Lets do the numbers:

The stories you read in this newsletter tell you how and why DREAM works. To ensure we stay on track in helping our kids really go after their dreams, DREAM Inc. is conducting a multi-year evaluation study. The DREAM Central Office, working with evaluation consultant Cynthia Charr, has been surveying DREAM children, families, and mentors to learn more about the effects that DREAM has on our kids’ levels of self-efficacy, interpersonal connections, school and community engagement, and future expectations and aspirations. Here are some of the findings from our 2003/04 Evaluation report.

### Of our DREAM kids:

- 9 of 10** say it is important to them to graduate from high school and have a well paying job.
- 7 of 10** believe attending college is important.
- 2 of 3** report that they have improved in their schooling and self confidence.
- 88%** believe it is important to be healthy.
- 94%** believe it is important to have good friends they can count on. And,
- 63%** state that they were doing better in making and keeping friends.



Katie Wiseman & her partner Sam DeForge in Portsmouth, NH

To learn more, check out the full report online at: <http://www.dreamprogram.org/about/evaluations.htm>  
And stay tuned for upcoming highlights from the 2004/05 report!

# Why does the office do DREAM?



Daniel asked everyone in the office to answer the question “why do I do DREAM?” While it is easy for me to understand why I was so excited to be a part of DREAM and why I wanted to take on this challenge, it is difficult to put it in words. But, I am going to try...

When I first spoke with Mike and Jon about possibly coming to DREAM as the new Executive Director, one of the early questions they asked me was “why DREAM?” My answer to them after very little thinking was “that’s easy, DREAM gets it.” And it was easy, up to that point. Explaining what I meant by that was harder. DREAM has evolved by taking the best ideas in mentoring and the best ideas in community development and giving those ideas to a group of highly excitable and very talented college students to mix them together, shake them up and create a program that is thrilling to be a part of, amazing for the children and life changing for everyone involved. I wanted to be a part of that; part of an organization that recognized a need and found some amazing and innovative ways to address that need while having a lot of fun doing it.

There is also a more personal reason why I find DREAM so compelling. As a child I grew up in a low-income community, raised by a single mother. I see a lot of similarities in what DREAM has to offer to children and the many positive factors in my life as a child. I had a number of caring adults in my life who acted as mentors and guardians, helping me achieve things that may not have been possible without them. Additionally, hiking, adventure, and outdoor pursuits had such a positive impact upon me as a young kid that I completely see their value for children today. Being a part of an organization that provides children with the same opportunities that were so important for me is my DREAM.

I’m interested in how the model of a supportive family can be extended to an office, a program, and a community. I toss this idea around daily in DREAM, working with eight wonderful staff, inspiring and energetic kids, and many program participants and supporters to build relationships and expand opportunities for all DREAMers. DREAM works. Its expanding support network is powerful. As a guide of this initiative, I am learning how to implement imagined possibilities. The models I will learn here will stay with me everywhere I go.

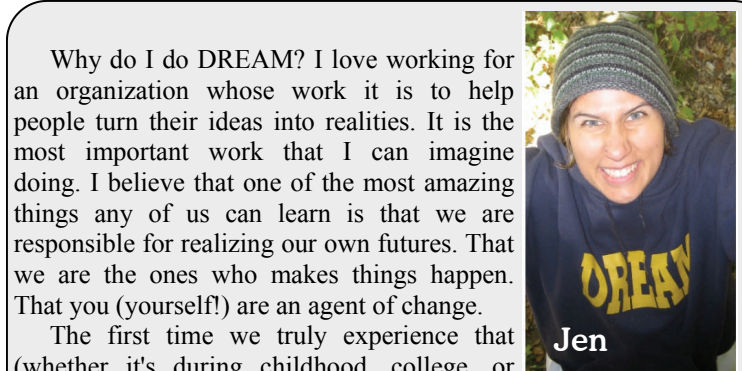


Daniel



Chad

I do DREAM because it puts me in a position to make a difference in the lives of others and my own through personal interactions. The people involved with DREAM have a contagious energy that makes you excited and happy whenever you are around them. It is great to surround yourself with people like that.



Jen

Why do I do DREAM? I love working for an organization whose work it is to help people turn their ideas into realities. It is the most important work that I can imagine doing. I believe that one of the most amazing things any of us can learn is that we are responsible for realizing our own futures. That we are the ones who makes things happen. That you (yourself!) are an agent of change.

The first time we truly experience that (whether it's during childhood, college, or beyond) has the potential to be one of the most fulfilling and wonderful times in our lives. DREAM brings together incredible people of all ages to build such experiences. It dares us all to DREAM Big. Together.

And I love that.



Elizabeth

What else does a girl do than DREAM? DREAM represents community development as a part of our lives and not as a political movement, which is why I believe it to be beautiful and why I chose to come back to Vermont for this work. The relationships that cross generations, allowing people

to experience others whom they care about, whether they are older or younger, contain the most valuable beauty. This is real. Only in a school setting are you isolated by people born in the same year, and as powerful an education in that setting is, it should not be the primary resource for growth and development in our society. DREAM supports individuals living in a community and that is amazing ... DREAM is fun!

Motivated. Idealistic. Driven. Creative. Empowered. Warm. Friendly. Social. Responsible. Welcoming. Inclusive. Energetic. Contagious. Spontaneous. Crazy. Amazing. Innovative. Unique. Youthful. Collegiate. Mentoring. Familial. Communal.

So what is the best part of my day?... Trying to be these things and getting to encourage others to be them--all at the same time.



Kristin

# DREAM On... updates from local programs

This fall, **Castleton State / Forest Park** DREAM grew in amazing leaps and bounds. The semester kicked off with an incredible recruiting blitz of the Castleton campus which brought together a group of ten awesome mentors and a handful of new and excited Forest Park children. Together these DREAMers have tackled a Fall semester full of apple picking, hiking, bottle driving, birdfeeder building, water sliding, and, most importantly, getting to know and care about one another. The program is looking forward to partnering up into mentoring pairs this upcoming January and embarking upon a trip to New York City for a weekend of adventure! DREAM on!



Castleton mentors Hannah, Casey, Stu, and Robbie at DREAMstock.

The **Norwich University / Green Acres** DREAM program kicked off the 2005/06 school year with an amazing blast of energy. Mentors and kids were thrilled to see each other and to catch up after a summer of adventures. The past few months were spent carving pumpkins, enjoying the beautiful weather outdoors building leaf piles, and playing creative games that stretched everybody's imagination (who CAN make the best paper airplane -- and HOW did they do that?!). Midway through, the mentors began recruiting new mentors for the Spring semester - an initiative that was met with excitement and energy by the rest of the Norwich campus. The group was also awarded a \$1200 scholarship from Norwich University!

The **UVM / Elm Street** local program has been extremely busy over the past few months, building relationships, continuing traditions, playing silly games, and carrying out new ideas. The semester began with a huge recruitment push that attracted over 150 applicants and yielded the addition of 16 new mentors and 4 new children. The group focused primarily on building the one-on-one relationships each week, coming together sporadically to celebrate each other throughout the Fall. They held a large fundraiser, the annual Chili Cook-off. The group decided to donate all profits to the children and families that have been affected by hurricanes. They plan to make this donation through a partnership with an organization in the Gulf Region that they select, with the possibility of continuing a relationship. The semester ended with a very fun talent show!

The Fall semester has been very full for the **Saint Michaels / Franklin Square** local program. The group concentrated on bringing the one-on-one matches together each Friday, participating in an array of group activities. Some of the highlights were walking to North Beach, enjoying the harvest festival, having a car wash, carving pumpkins, celebrating at the holiday dinner, and bowling. The group is beginning to focus on a big recruitment push and planning a culminating trip in the Spring.

Now one year old, the **Champlain College / Birchwood** DREAM program expanded to new levels this Fall—growing to 17 mentor matches and exploring new areas of the Northeast. Parent and Birchwood community support indicates a great appreciation for all the devotion the mentors put into the program. The mentors and the community plan to beautify Birchwood post mud season this upcoming Spring with benches, birdhouses, covered bus stops and possibly a playground! The mentor matches have enjoyed the Fall with apple picking and ending with a phenomenal Christmas gift exchange where Mike Loner debuted as Santa Claus. The mentors continue to grow by developing trainings and reflecting on their experiences. Just before the term ended, the group traveled to the Olympic Park in Lake Placid, New York and explored High Falls Gorge on freshly fallen snow, after sharing a DREAM shirt with the US Women's Olympic Hockey Team!

In its fourth year, **Dartmouth / Armory Square** is enjoying an almost entirely new mentor base of 22 with a fresh and energetic perspective on interacting with their mentees. Much of their

creative energy this Fall was devoted to brainstorming transportation alternatives and researching the possibility of expanding the limited playground space at Armory Square. Plans for their first mini-retreat are underway for this winter, focusing on program organization and child management techniques. In addition to massive games of kickball, the mentors and mentees shared an afternoon of giving thanks and prepared a fabulous feast! Currently the community is infused with the thrill of the upcoming High Adventure trip with Northwoods / Hollow Drive DREAM to California.



Champlain / Birchwood trip to Lake Placid.

DREAM's oldest Local Program, **Dartmouth / Northwoods & Hollow Drive** lives on. This Fall, mentors began to develop even closer bonds with families, including forging relationships with their kids' schools. Mentors rallied around several festive events, including an afternoon of Halloween haunting and a holiday celebration complete with dressing up and gift exchanges. Mentors and mentees alike are gearing up for this summer's joint High Adventure trip to California with Armory Square DREAM.

# Real Quick...

## ★ The DREAM Inc. and the Alumni Org Appeals are nearing the final stretch.

Make your donation today to help the office continue to provide quality support to every program and to allow alumni to offer grant funding for innovative program projects. Mail checks (see address below) or donate online at [www.dreamprogram.org](http://www.dreamprogram.org).

## ★ Where have you been DREAMing? Special DREAM Challenge

Send us pictures of you in DREAM Gear from across the country and around the world! Include names and locations to show where your dreams take you. DREAM kids from all over Vermont will vote on the best DREAM ambassador, the best DREAM adventure, and the furthest distance. Email entries to [daniel@dreamprogram.org](mailto:daniel@dreamprogram.org) and view them at [www.dreamprogram.org](http://www.dreamprogram.org).



DREAM travels to NH beaches.



## Keep DREAMing

The DREAM Program, Inc.  
P.O. Box 361  
Winooski, VT 05404

## Camp DREAM

You're cordially invited to:

### Winter Adventure Camp!!

#### Winter Adventure Camp:

*A glorious weekend in the wilderness with DREAM friends. Activities will include sledding, broomball on the pond, ice-fishing, cross-country skiing, snowball fights, and much more!*



#### WAC 2006 Session Dates:

- January 21 & 22— Northwoods (Dartmouth)
- January 28 & 29— Armory Square (Dartmouth)
- February 4 & 5— Forest Park (Castleton St.)
- February 11— Birchwood (Champlain)
- February 12— Franklin St. (UVM)
- February 25 & 26— Franklin Square (St. Mike's)
- March 4 & 5— Green Acres (Norwich)
- March 11 & 12— Elm Street (UVM)

Location: Camp DREAM  
1618 Taylor Rd.  
Fletcher, Vermont

Save the date! More info coming soon! Hooray!

Questions? Contact Dave at:  
Phone: 802-655-9015  
E-mail: [dave@dreamprogram.org](mailto:dave@dreamprogram.org)

-Are you looking to SAVE PAPER or are you looking for something to hold in your hands? If you'd like to switch your reception of this newsletter to email or hardcopy, let us know: [Daniel@dreamprogram.org](mailto:Daniel@dreamprogram.org).

-If you've been looking to contact someone in DREAM, like an old mentee or mentor, let us know. We'll do what we can to help. Email Chad. ([chad@dreamprogram.org](mailto:chad@dreamprogram.org))

-Are you looking for a job? DREAM has started a new job site: ([www.dreamprogram.org/resources/jobs.htm](http://www.dreamprogram.org/resources/jobs.htm)) for kids/mentors/alums to search for and post interesting positions. Check it out and send us suggestions of what would be useful to you.

Check out [www.dreamprogram.org](http://www.dreamprogram.org) for news, pictures, online donations, and many other useful features. Contact the office (802-655-9015, [Daniel@dreamprogram.org](mailto:Daniel@dreamprogram.org)) with any questions or thoughts for us...and please pass this newsletter along to friends and family!