

Executive Report  
The DREAM Program Inc.  
Board Meeting  
August 18, 2005

Can you say Camp DREAM? Because that is exactly what has been on everyone's lips for the past three months. In a word, Camp has been GREAT, the staff, children, mentors, and counselors have all reported having a wonderful time during their camp session and look forward to returning to camp next year. Jen Lazar is working with camp staff and Camp Director Dave Anderson to put together the final evaluations of the camps sessions and we hope to report on our successes and challenges over the next month or so.

On the permit front for Camp, things are flowing pretty smooth at this point. The Act 250 30 day window came and went without a request for a hearing, therefore once the other permits are in place our Act 250 permit will be issued. The other permits include the Wastewater permit which was reviewed by Ernie Christiansen and given all positive comments, and the Conditional Use Determination for the wetland crossing. Again, this has been reviewed and well received by the state. The last obstacle prior to building will be the building permit from the Town of Fletcher, but this just need to be reviewed and approved by the Zoning Administrator and he has been very positive and helpful so far. We will meet with him next week to go over the wastewater design to help clarify some concerns he has regarding the composting toilets.

Outside of Camp DREAM, summer has been busy as well. The summer interns, known as the D-Unit this year, have all been very active in working with the children at the various housing communities. This summer the interns have worked both solo and in teams to create a very memorable summer for the children. Activities vary from games of "drip-drip-splash" on the hot days to bowling on the rainy days. Additionally, a number of larger trips have occurred for smaller groups of children (15 to 30) including a trip to Portsmouth, a trip to Boston, a day excursion to the Great Escape and a culminating two-day trip to Biddeford Maine for camping, the ocean and a fun park. It has truly been an awesome summer and everyone in the office is going to miss the energy and zaniness of our great D-Unit!

Not everything has been fun and sun this summer. As the Board is aware, the Barre Housing Authority Board of Directors has chosen to cut funding to DREAM for 2005-2006. While the drastic cuts at the Federal level was the major impetus for this decision it should be recognized that the slow growth of the program was also a concern. DREAM did attempt to work with the BHA Board on a funding level that made more sense to them, possible a per child fee or a sliding scale, however the Board appears uninterested at this time to discuss this. We should talk about this a bit more during the meeting as there are some long-term decisions to be made for DREAM in Barre.

Finally, the next few weeks are going to be very busy and exciting. DREAM has hired two "new" staff members as full-time paid staff, Jen Lazar and Chad Butt. They begin as

full-time staff once their VISTA terms are up in August. Hiring letters have been signed and salaries negotiated, again we can talk about this more in detail at the meeting if anyone is interested. Both Jen and Chad will start at \$25,000 per year and receive healthcare benefits up to \$300 per month. DREAM will also see four new VISTA members join the staff at the end of August; Lu Neuse, Daniel Shearer, Kristin Burdge and Elizabeth Rosen. Each of these outstanding individuals have past relationships with DREAM and we could not ask for better people to fill out our already strong team.