

The DREAM Program, Inc.

Executive Director's Report; November 2005

Happy Halloween everyone! This report is going to be relatively short given the fact that our last meeting was only a few short weeks ago. The office is in the midst of the 2005 Annual Appeal and the Alumni Appeal. The letters have been written and are being signed by staff. Our goal for 2005 is \$25,000 and we have set a end date for the appeal as November 18. We of course will accept and will see a number of donations after this date, but it seems best to give a timeline for people to donate so that they do not put it off. As usual people can donate online, and we are encouraging supporters to consider becoming sustaining members. Many of you are probably aware of this through VPR, but people can give online with a credit card and can opt to provide a monthly donation that is billed to their account hassle free each month. We hope that this will allow people to increase their donation, as they do not have to give the entire amount at one time. I will of course keep the Board informed of our Appeal as it moves forward and we approach our goal, but you can follow it online at our website as well.

November 2 will be the date of our first staff strategic planning meeting. Our goals for this meeting will be to look at DREAM's Mission Statement and Core Values to determine if they are still valid and still make sense for where DREAM is today. I also hope to create a Vision Statement for DREAM during this meeting. While the Mission Statement is why and what the organization claims to do, the Vision Statement is what the world will look like once we have accomplished that mission. Stay tuned it promises to be a very interesting discussion with the staff. From here our next meeting will be a SWOT analysis of DREAM (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) which I plan to hold in late November.

Quick run-down of permits at Camp; I have spoken with Ernie Christiansen with the State of Vermont regarding our Wastewater permit and it seems there was a small oversight at Heindel and Noyse and the maps were never sent to the State that were asked for three weeks ago. Ernie will get them on November 1 and we should have our draft permit by the 3rd. This is the last permit that we need and then we will receive our Act 250 permit. This will allow us to close on the conservation easement which the Vermont Land Trust is very eager to close. We hope to wrap this up by the end of November. And speaking of land, a quick update on the Villeneuve Property east of Camp DREAM. I spoke with Mrs. Virginia Villeneuve, Richard's widow and while she was very excited to hear how well camp went this summer and she gave us verbal permission to utilize the property for hiking and snowshoeing she is unsure of how things are going to lay out once the estate is settled. I guess with all the property involved they are still valuing the estate and then going to determine who owns what (there are ten kids). Virginia said she would talk with the family about the property and see what the collective intentions may be. For the record she said she was a big camp supporter and was glad we received our permit.

Attached to the report is the most recent version of the Draft 2006 budget, this was also emailed to all Board members separately. I have included a sheet for the Camp expenses and one for Camp revenue. I think all of the numbers represented present a very conservative expense picture and a realistic income picture.

Finally, Jan, thank you for the composting toilet, at this moment it is still in my car, but I think it is going to make an awesome addition to Camp.