



**The DREAM Program, Inc.**

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**Forest Park DREAM Update  
November 2005**

This month Forest Park DREAM was filled with big group activities that made use of the Castleton State Campus, and areas in downtown Rutland. From fundraising to english muffin pizza parties these DREAMers have been exploring a wide variety of different activities together and learning more about each other week by week.

The group planned a bottle drive fundraiser for one of their Fridays... on that particularly chilly Friday afternoon DREAM mentors and kids hit the streets of downtown Rutland and Castleton collecting bottles and cans for redemption. Partnering with a local redemption site, the group was able to earn six cents per can/bottle and raise \$70 together in one afternoon!

Making use of the waning fall weather, the group also headed out on a hike around the CSC campus, ending with a huge kickball game on the campus athletic fields. Afternoons like this (hiking, kickball, the english muffin pizza party, and the bottle drive give) DREAMers and their mentors a chance to find equal footing doing team activities – cooking, fundraising, and hiking together as a group.

Outside of regular DREAM time, the mentors and DREAM Office staff have been focusing a lot of their energy on organizational development and improving communication with the families of Forest Park. By enhancing meeting structure with specialized committees (a Fundraising committee, a Friday Planning committee, a Trip Planning committee...) the group is able to accomplish more each week. One committee has been focusing on communication with DREAM families... and has been working to find a good time to hold the groups first Local Advisory Board meeting with the DREAM families. This committee has succeeded in putting together a calendar of upcoming events with some agenda items to hand out to DREAM families as well!

The DREAM Alumni Grant process also began during this November. DREAM's Alumni Organization (made up of graduated DREAM mentors from all seven of our Local Programs) was looking to grant small scholarships to programs who are putting together awesome, innovative ideas for their DREAMers. The mentors of Forest Park DREAM put together a proposal for a group trip to NYC to be held at the beginning of next semester. This overnight trip will be for all DREAMers and their mentors and give the chance to take their adventuring to the next level and to a whole other state!

Keep DREAMin'

Jen Lazar  
Director of Resource Development