



**The DREAM Program, Inc.**

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[www.dreamprogram.org](http://www.dreamprogram.org)



December 15th, 2005

**Armory DREAM Update  
November/December 2005**

Greetings from DREAM!

November marked the culmination of Armory Square DREAM's fall term. Year 2005 ended for them with a Thanksgiving feast and continued planning for High Adventure!

Friday activities this term focused on one-on-one time to build the dynamic between the relatively new mentor and mentee matches. Matches baked cakes and explored local hillsides, in addition to taking a really close look at rules for DREAM, where the mentees brainstormed the rules in small groups and then presented them to all the Armory DREAMers, encouraging ownership of their actions.

The term culminated with a phenomenal pre-Thanksgiving feast prepared by the mentor and mentee matches, complete with a giant turkey, stuffing, yams, mashed potatoes, gravy, salad, ice cream, and so much more! This was a time where the mentees really got to excel and teach their mentors how to cook things in a hilarious role reversal that truly strengthened mentor and mentee relationships in DREAM.

As the majority of the Armory Square kids hit their pre-teen and teen years, the Armory Square mentors are turning an even more watchful eye on management techniques and modeling appropriate behavior. A mini-retreat for January is in the works, which should focus on program structure and behavioral struggles the mentors have encountered. In addition, three mentors had the opportunity to attend a workshop along with office staff on Domestic Violence and how it affects children.

Plans for High Adventure are churning along at a solid pace as the group heads to... (drumroll please)... California! Specific destinations within the state have not yet been chosen, but the group has already run several fundraisers together ranging from bake sales to raffles. They are looking forward to a stupendous Dance-a-Thon in the middle of January that is open to members of the community both young and old. Donations from friends and family across the states are beginning to come in, offering nationwide support for the trip.

At the end of the term, the mentors elected a new co-chair, John Cyr '06. John was an incredibly capable and able member of this summer's D-Unit that ran summer programming for all of the DREAM communities. He is currently heading up the High Adventure trip, along with Brittany Beth from the Northwoods/Hollow Drive program, and will help bring a new vision to the program's leadership.

Mid-November marked the news of Armory Square's successful grant to DREAM's Alumni Organization. The program now has \$500 to put towards a revamping and potential expansion of the playground facilities, pending approval from the community's owners. In the meantime they



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are looking into alternative transportation methods as the mentors trouble shoot their current lack of vehicles.

The end of November also brought over 30 new mentors from the Freshman and Sophomore classes, soon to be divided between the Armory Square and Northwoods/Hollow Drive programs. The old mentors from both Dartmouth DREAM programs collaborated to recruit and interview, then raided the newly accepted mentors in crazy clothes, taught them DREAM's traditional "purple stew" song, and introduced them to the collective energy that embodies DREAM. Next term these new mentors will fill in for old mentors who will be studying abroad for the term and learn how to be a mentor—DREAM style!

Look for updates on High Adventure and the Dance-a-Thon, as well as news about the retreat in next month's update! Also remember, you can always look back at past monthly reports or other programs' reports by going to:

[http://www.dreamprogram.org/documents/Local\\_Programs/Program\\_Reports/Monthly\\_Reports/\\_Web/](http://www.dreamprogram.org/documents/Local_Programs/Program_Reports/Monthly_Reports/_Web/).

And please, do not hesitate to contact us with questions or ideas.

Happy Holidays and Keep DREAMin'  
Kristin Burdge  
Programs Liaison