



**The DREAM Program, Inc.**

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



March 16th, 2006



**Northwoods/Hollow Drive DREAM Update  
January/February 2006**

Greetings from DREAM!

The months of January and February were action packed for the Northwoods/Hollow Drive DREAM program as the wintry days kept everyone up and running all day long to stay warm. Mentors and mentees in the program fundraised for High Adventure like no one ever has before, partied and danced the night away, and focused their energies on activities in the communities themselves to make the community stronger. They also had a chance to brave the cold up at camp DREAM!

High Adventure is in full gear, as the trip date grows nearer—June 17-June 31 are the travel days they're shooting for! There are approximately 15 mentees headed on this wonderful adventure, and mentors are clearing their schedules to be able to go with them—tickets will be purchased soon! Mentors and mentees attended a successful getting-to-know-you and planning retreat in mid-February. As part of the retreat the group quickly learned how to be adaptable when strong winds brought far too many trees down on their path to the cabin they were to stay at, forcing them to rearrange their plans with style. The sorority Delta Delta Delta offered up their space (thank you!) at the last minute for the group to sleep in, and they held the remainder of their retreat in a dorm common space, with a quality energy-infusing raid run by several mentors and an office staffer!

Mentees are becoming heavily involved in the fundraising efforts, as the group is also all well on their way to their \$17,000 goal with around \$12,000 already in the bank, a significant portion of which came from donors from all over the country, numerous bakes sales and raffles, and a highly successful Dance-A-Thon. Thanks to prizes donated by various organizations, musical equipment supplied free of charge by Dartmouth College student DJ Vic, Dartmouth College's generous giving of the Collis Commonground space, and hours of work put in by mentors and Greek Organizations across the campus, mentors and mentees enjoyed several hours of dancing with their friends to bring in over \$1500 in just one night.

In the meantime, Allie Williams' (Dartmouth '07) internship working and living in the Northwoods community helped maintain the program's focus on the whole group of children and the communities they live in. Due to Allie's constant presence and involvement in the community, the part-time Americorps volunteer in the community was able to take this winter off, enabling her to extend her stay in the community. Allie ran daily programming for the younger kids and the older kids, oversaw a daily homework club, held a cultural night every Sunday, and took the youth on numerous excursions outside of the community. She also served as a much-appreciated consistent and caring liaison for the parents to be able to contact with any concerns or frustrations. The mentors and the Housing Authority look forward to filling this position again in the future!

The mentors took advantage of Allie's constant presence to turn their focus on a few families who asked for specific assistance, throwing their energy into helping one family with weekly dinners and assisting another with general housekeeping tasks. The trust that the Northwoods/Hollow Drive



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families have shown towards their mentors by sharing some of their tough situations has really encouraged the mentors to do as much as they can for their mentees and their families. All of that on top of their regular Friday programming which focused on group activities (sledding, etc.) that allowed mentor/mentee matches to have one-on-one time if they preferred.

Much of this was made possible by the contagious energy brought in by the new mentors, who spent the past two months subbing for mentors who are studying abroad this term. More seasoned mentors, Dylan Gee, AJ Legaye, Mirelle Phillips (all Northwoods/Hollow '07) and Will McMahan (Armory Square mentor, '08) have been leading a structured new mentor orientation for these new mentors and those volunteering with Armory Square. All new mentors attended two mentor-lead trainings, the first on DREAM Rules and Guidelines and the other on general issues, discipline, etc. featuring role-playing, question and answer sessions, and some very involved discussions. The trainers reported that the sessions were very successful!

Dave Anderson, Camp Director, also ran a session on DREAM's history and core values to help the new mentors understand some of DREAM's bigger philosophies as an organization. All mentors are looking forward to a training on child abuse concerns from Margaret Davis of the Department of Child and Family Services (DCF) this spring.

The weekend of January 21-22 found the mentors and all the kids over age ten heading up to our camp in Fletcher, VT for a very successful Winter Adventure Camp (WAC)! The mentors selected the pirate theme for their WAC to help the kids focus on adventure, swashbuckling, expanding horizons, imagination, and bonding. The group spent many hours sledding on the sledding hill, participated in a hostage mystery, and received many awards championing their successful achievements at camp. The weekend actually brought two of the teenage girls up to camp for the first time ever—a major accomplishment, especially when they found themselves loving cross-country skiing!

In early February a small group of mentors met with DREAM staff and a friend who is a Medical Student to discuss concerns recently raised by mentor/mentee pairs. Mentors are looking to find a way to keep their mentees enthusiastically involved in DREAM as teenagers, which they noticed tends to be an age that the mentees are drawn away by other life priorities. Furthermore, many mentors have expressed concern over drug and alcohol abuse in addition to high sexual activity, based on conversations with their mentees. Hopes are to create a pre-teen/teen program across the Northwoods/Hollow Drive and Armory Square programs that enhances the connections between mentors and mentees as peers, through discussion, team building, and outside presentations.

Look for updates on High Adventure as well as information on the new pre-teen/teen programming in the works! 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.



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Happy Holidays and Keep DREAMin'  
Kristin Burdge  
Programs Liaison