



The DREAM Program, Inc.
P.O. Box 361
Winooski, VT 05404
(802) 655-9015 tel
(802) 654-8598 fax
www.dreamprogram.org



October 1, 2007

Norwich DREAM Update September 2007

Greetings from DREAM! Here is a summary of the exciting events and developments that occurred during September. You can always look back at past monthly reports or other programs' reports by going to: <http://www.dreamprogram.org/about/localprograms.htm>. And please, do not hesitate to contact us with questions or ideas.

A new school year has not only brought on eleven new Central Office staff, but also a plethora of new and excited mentors from Norwich! As was seen by an overwhelming response at a BBQ Highgate, the children are also excited to start up DREAM again!

Highlights from September include:

- The start of a brand new school year for Green Acres and Highgate children and Norwich mentors. As well as introducing a new program staff, Katie Wiseman, for the Norwich DREAM Program
- Current mentors recruiting up to ten new Norwich mentors!
- The group's co-chairs set a goal of bringing on seven kids from Highgate by winter break in December.

Fridays: The core of DREAM happens every Friday when DREAM mentors meet with their partners in group and one-on-one settings. The meetings occur on college campuses, onsite at the children's homes, and at spaces around the community. This month, Friday program included:

- Bringing two children to Norwich campus and playing Everybody's It tag in the middle of campus and Sardines during Homecoming Weekend.
- A community-wide BBQ at Highgate which brought out families and mentors alike for food, games, and fun, of course! Ben and Jerry's donated ice cream to this event and dozens of children that live in the community got to meet mentors and vice versa.

LABs/Parental Involvement: Local Advisory Board (LAB) meetings are where parents, mentors, and other community members come together to learn more about each other, build trust, discuss ideas and issue, and build stronger lines of communication. This month mentors:

- Met new and familiar Highgate families at a Friday community BBQ.

Trips: Perhaps the most exciting components of DREAM are its end of semester trips and summer adventure programs. Children, mentors, parents, and staff look forward to these where the DREAM bus comes out of hibernation and the full group has new experiences together. This month,



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- Mentors have already discussed renewing the trip to Washington D.C. for the end of this semester that was postponed in the spring 2007 semester. A few mentors have also suggested Boston as a culminating trip.

Capacity Building: The mentors are constantly working on bringing new children into the program and improving the program. Such initiatives this month have included:

- Nearly doubling the amount of mentors by recruiting Norwich students.
- Co-chairs setting a goal of bringing on seven children from Highgate by winter break and ten, in total, by the end of the school year.

Mentor Training: The DREAM Central Office is in close communication with the mentors as to their individual and group needs. The Office continues to develop training modules to fit the mentors' needs, and encourages them to go on retreats and have other bonding events – it is important for the children and mentors to have a tight and energized mentor group. This month:

- The Central Office has been spreading energy for DREAMstock and getting the mentors excited. DREAMstock will happen October 13-14 and Norwich is excited to be a part of it! This annual event brings mentors from all over the state together at DREAM camp to discuss everything DREAM.

Keep DREAMing!

Katie Wiseman
Program Director, New Program Coordinator