



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



The Highgate DREAM Update October 2007

Greetings from DREAM! Here is a summary of the exciting events and developments that occurred during October. 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.

As leaves were falling and the weather became chillier, Highgate DREAM was turning up the heat with new mentors and new mentees entering the program throughout the month of October! Team-building at DREAMstock led to bonding that Norwich mentors had not yet experienced and driving up to UVM's Chili Cook-Off introduced Highgate DREAM to four other DREAM programs.

Highlights from this month include:

- An adventure to the Ben and Jerry's factory in Waterbury, VT.
- Norwich mentor representation at the 3rd annual DREAMstock at Camp DREAM in Fletcher, VT.
- Welcoming nine Highgate children into school-year DREAM programming.

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:

- New mentors joining current Highgate mentors and office staff on a delicious tour of the Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream Factory. DR
- Accepting the challenge presented to them; Highgate mentors and mentees brought energy and a big appetite to UVM DREAM's Chili Cook-off.
- Welcoming fall by having donut-on-a-string eating contests and playing in the crunchy leaves at the Highgate community center.

Parental Involvement:

- Mentors have been visiting family and children outside of DREAM, strengthening their relationships with their partners and families. They have been going to the homes of new children to talk with parents about the child's involvement in DREAM. These visits also included explaining what DREAM is, and what it means for the child to be a part of school year DREAM.

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

- Talking with the parents of Highgate and inviting nine Highgate children into DREAM.



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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, training activities included:

- Six Highgate mentors attending DREAMstock, a mentor event organized by DREAM's Central Office, where all of DREAM's colleges are invited to spend the night at Camp DREAM. The mentors come up for bonding, networking with other programs, participating in work projects and work shops, and to have fun! Norwich mentors were given the opportunity to do all of the above and went far beyond; they connected to other mentors and discussed what it is to be a mentor and why they want to be a DREAM mentor. During their program time they also spent time planning activities and establishing goals; such as fantastic Friday events, a potential trip to an Elm St. DREAMer's family's farm in Williamstown, and recruiting even more mentors to DREAM!

Keep DREAMing bigger and bigger all the time!

Katie Wiseman
Program Director, New Program Coordinator