



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 January 2008

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

The New Year has brought about change world-wide, but more specifically in the state of Vermont for the DREAM Program! Throughout the month of January we've celebrated birthdays, investigated potential new DREAM Programs, and so much more! Highgate mentors and mentees are continuing to get to know new faces while having fun. Read on for a plethora of updates in the DREAM world!

Highlights from this month include:

- DREAM's birthday is recognized, we turned 9 this year!
- Highgate's spring, 2008 Culminating Event hammered out a bit more – now there are location choices!
- The summer hiring process beginning for D-Unit and DREAM Camp positions!

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:

- The first Highgate DREAM Friday of 2008!
 - Mentors rushed over to Highgate to pick up all of the mentees for a classic egg drop on the Norwich campus! It was an event that combined creativity, perseverance, and, unfortunately, more than one runny yolk.

Fundraisers: Fundraisers are an important component of the program. They help build ownership amongst the children in the running of the program, and also provide a fun forum to build leadership and organizational skills. This month:

- Highgate mentors have discussed two potential fundraisers:
 - Shaw's Receipts Rewards
 - The entire Highgate Program is collecting Shaw's receipts, including mentors, mentees, the central office, and families, to submit to Shaw's. Then 1% of eligible purchases will be sent back to the program.
 - Wristbands



The DREAM Program, Inc.

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



- Mentors have ordered the rubber LiveStrong bracelets that will read DREAM on them. They will be selling them to families, the Norwich campus, and other DREAM programs to make a profit.
- Facebook Challenge
 - Communications Director Daniel Shearer and his buddy Sockdor began a fundraising revolution this month at DREAM. Through a fundraising challenge for non-profits on the popular Internet networking website Facebook, DREAM raised over **\$20,000** to support local programs. Thanks to mentors, office staff, and the larger DREAM community, we were able to achieve *5th place* out of hundreds of non-profits by inviting, recruiting, and donating to The DREAM Program. Thank you to everyone who lent a hand!

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,

- Potential Culminating locations!
 - Mentors agreed on three locations for the spring 2008 Culminating. They will be presenting these options to the mentees. They hope to break up into groups and research each site, present their findings to the larger group and vote. The three options are:
 - Boston
 - Northern New Jersey
 - Washington, D.C.

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

- Teen Programs
 - Work continued on DREAM's new teen programming initiatives. The expanded CIT program, the Teen Media grant, and DREAM's first ever Service Adventure continued to receive applications this month, while office staff began to create itineraries, calendars and budgets to support each project. We hope that our improved teen programs will keep DREAMers engaged, challenged, and supported as they move into the sometimes-turbulent territory of adolescence.
- DREAM mentor wins award!
 - January is National Mentoring month! To celebrate, the DREAM Office nominated one special mentor from Chittenden County to receive an award at the National Mentoring Breakfast in Burlington. Jennifer Ballou, a wonderful mentor from our Franklin Street program and a junior at UVM, was recognized for her commitment and passion. We are so proud of all our wonderful mentors. Happy mentoring month!



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



- D-Unit Interviewing begins
 - The DREAM office began its quest to find nine awesome mentors to work as D-Unit Interns over the summer months. One mentor from each local program will spend his or her summer in a DREAM community creating activities and events to keep all of the children in the community engaged. D-Unit Interns receive an AmeriCorps stipend, and their presence in the communities provides consistent support for all our DREAMers. Last year, D-Unit Interns organized events from cartwheel contests to clean-up tag to bike trips around Lake Champlain. One field trip group traveled all the way to the coast of New Hampshire to visit the ocean!
- DREAM at Johnson State?
 - This month, the New Programs team visited Johnson State College to explore the possibility of a new DREAM program run by Johnson students. Katie, Chad and Chris met with Coordinator of Community Service Laura Megivern, Campus Compact VISTA Colin Penney, and Graduate Assistant Courtney Close to discuss the future of DREAM at Johnson. They also investigated potential DREAM communities in the Johnson area – so exciting!

Alumni Involvement: DREAM prides itself on its dedicated alumni network (graduated mentors). This network leverages its growing financial and knowledge resources for the program and children. This month, the alumni network was involved by:

- MIT presentation:
 - Former DREAM mentor and office member John Potter, now at the MIT Business School, visited DREAM this fall with a few of his classmates to examine this year's staff expansion for a course on Organizational Changes. He and his group members video conferenced with DREAM office staff this month to share their observations and offer some suggestions as we incorporate nine new staff members into our DREAM family. Thanks to ideas generated by the MIT focus group, we are looking at ways to improve communication between our Camp, Local Programs, and Development teams to better support DREAMers and their mentors. We will keep you updated as we experiment with facilitation techniques and feedback mechanisms designed specially for our unique organization. Thank you John and the MIT team!

Camp Specific: DREAM's beautiful 50 acre camp is a resource for everyone involved in the program. It is equipped to run program and overnights all seasons. Activities at camp this month included:

- Winter Adventure Camp
 - This January, four of our local programs made it out to Camp DREAM in Fletcher, VT to enjoy winter and play in the snow! Activities included broomball on the ice of Metcalf Pond, rollicking games of Screaming Toes and Mafia, cross country skiing, caterpillar sledding, scavenger hunts, and sing-alongs around the campfire. Winter



The DREAM Program, Inc.

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



Adventure Camp is an amazing opportunity for DREAMers and their mentors to explore Camp DREAM when the snow is deep and the leaves are off the trees. Kids and mentors share the challenge of spending a night in the woods in winter and enjoy camp-style meals in the cozy canvas tent. As Chris (age 11) from Franklin Street said during a fireside key log, "This was the best day ever!"

Other:

- DREAM's 9th Birthday
 - On January 15th, DREAM celebrated 9 years of mentoring! DREAM Board Member and founder Mike Foote and DREAM Historian Lily Landes discovered that it has been nine amazing years since an inspired group of Dartmouth students headed over to Templeton Community in White River Junction to see if they could find some kids to play with. With over 1000 mentors in our database, High Adventures to California, Alaska, and Colorado, and Local Programs serving kids in eleven communities across the state, it is amazing to see how DREAM has grown. Happy Birthday!
- Winter Retreats
 - Early in January, DREAM's 18 member office staff spent a wonderful overnight at former DREAMer Laura Shaw's cabin in Stowe. The retreat's focus was to brainstorm and generate energy for The Charge, DREAM's tri-part mission to strengthen current programs, discover better ways to meet the needs of Vermont youth, and examine what it will take to expand DREAM beyond Vermont. DREAM's Board of Trustees, lead by Board Chair Bill Finnegan, also retreated this month to focus on DREAM's future growth

Keep DREAMing!

Katie Wiseman
Program Director, New Programs Coordinator