



The DREAM Program, Inc.

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August 15, 2006

Franklin Square DREAM Update July 2006

The month of July was filled with DREAM activities. Approximately 25 children have been participating in DREAM Programming throughout the month, with 15 children attending off-site trips, and 12 children invited to participate in our free residential programming at Camp DREAM!

The D-Unit interns have had the opportunity to spend a ton of time at Franklin Square this summer – learning more and more about DREAM families, and meeting newcomers to the community. Day trips to North Beach, Mallet's Bay, and the Sand Bar on South Hero Island have given ample space for a variety of summertime activities. Evenings spent at Franklin Square playing basketball, hanging out on the Square, and meeting with parents have built new relationships and strengthened existing ones. Full day activities, arts and crafts, and fun time in the sprinkler have brought DREAM kids outside in the sun all month long.

DREAMers also participated in two big off-site trips. In the beginning of July the Northern DREAM communities took a trip to the Montshire Museum in Norwich, VT. This hands-on children's museum was an awesome day adventure for DREAM girls ages 7-9. Kids and mentors had a chance to play in their giant fountains, hike nearby trails, and perform their own science experiments.

Then, later in the month, DREAMers visited the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium. Meeting up with 5-7 year olds from the Southern DREAM communities, children from Franklin Square (and the other Chittenden County programs) spent an afternoon of learning about wind, physics, and the stars. After exploring the museum (from taxidermy to computers!) DREAMers were given a tour of the stars and learned the histories of star constellations during the Planetarium's light show.

Also in the month of July, D-Unit Interns planned a Green Up Day in the Franklin Square community. The morning was spent with mentors, parents, and kids picking up garbage and cleaning up the community. Many, many bags of garbage were collected, DREAMers planted pots of new grass seeds to observe the growing process in their own homes, and the morning was a huge success! There was free Ben and Jerry's for everyone and, as an extra reward for all the hard work, Charlie Halstead turned on the sprinkler for everyone!

A number of children who have been attending Flynn's Summer School Program over the summer also starred in a play at Flynn. Two D-Unit interns attended the play one evening to cheer on Deno and Nela Devac, Sinan and Elvis Teocanin, and a few others as they had their five minutes of fame! The interns loved seeing their Franklin Square friends in action, and the children could not have been happier to see the D-Unit interns there.

Justine Modica, the DREAM Outdoor Intern has also been planning regular hiking trips around the state of Vermont. Trips have taken DREAMers from Camel's Hump, to Shelburne Farms, to Tuberville Farm in Milton for a day of learning about local farming. Franklin Square DREAMers



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had the opportunity to participate in a number of these trips according to their age and interest in the subject matter!

And then there was Camp DREAM! In the month of July five camp sessions took place bringing DREAMers ages 8-10 and 12-14 years of age up to Camp for three and five day sessions. It has been an amazing summer up at Camp – regular tubing trips down the Lamoille River, cultivating vegetables from the fresh organic garden, and meeting new friends from around the state. For many of the Franklin Square DREAMers this was their first year at Camp – first time in a canoe or camping outside in a tent and, for some of them, their first night away from home. DREAM Staff were amazed and impressed with their willingness to take on new challenges – from night-hikes, to taking care of the camp chickens!

Look forward to news of summer's end festivities, the final days of Camp, and the beginning of the regular mentoring school year in August's monthly report.

Please feel free to contact the Central Office with any questions or thoughts.

Keep DREAMing!

Jen Lazar
Director of Resource Development
www.dreamprogram.org