



The DREAM Program, Inc.

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August 15, 2006

Elm Street DREAM Update July 2006

The month of July was filled with DREAM activities. From Camp DREAM, to D-Unit the community's children and families have been busy taking advantage of the long, hot days and soaking up the sun. Approximately thirty children participated in DREAM Programming throughout the month, with twenty-five children attending off-site trips, and twenty-six children invited to participate in free residential programming at Camp DREAM!

The D-Unit interns have had the opportunity to spend a ton of time at Elm Street 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. Mornings spent doing projects with the younger children, hanging out on the playground, and meeting with parents have built new relationships and strengthened existing ones. Full day activities, arts and crafts, and fun time with sports and water activities have brought DREAM kids outside in the sun all month long. Elm Street's D-Unit intern, Hannah Geier, had the opportunity to share her dad and his hand-carved drums with the children of Elm Street for a couple drumming circles that brought the little ones dancing out of their air-conditioned apartments.

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.

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 Elm Street and the other Chittenden County programs spent an afternoon learning about wind, physics, and outer space. After exploring the museum (from taxidermy to computers!) DREAMers were given a tour of the stars and learned the histories of constellations during the Planetarium's light show.

Justine Modica, the DREAM Outdoor Intern, has 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. Community DREAMers had the opportunity to participate in a number of these trips according to their age and interest in the subject matter! Two Elm Street mentees were reportedly heard screaming over the ledge at Camel's Hump, delighted with their accomplishment of reaching the top.

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



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of the Elm Street 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! This year, the 12-14 year old girls, as repeat camp attendees, had the opportunity to take part in some new camp programming focusing on adolescent issues through discussion and outdoor challenge activities. In its pilot year, this programming was a complete success with the Elm Street youth.

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. And, as always, please feel free to contact the Central Office with any questions or thoughts.

Keep DREAMing!

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