



The DREAM Program, Inc.  
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[www.dreamprogram.org](http://www.dreamprogram.org)



## The Elm St. 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.

For the Elm St. DREAM Program the month of October was filled with Friday DREAMs, great activities outside of Fridays, and planning of events for the coming months.

Highlights from this month include:

- Four outstanding Friday DREAMs,
- The annual UVM DREAM Chili Cook-Off, and
- DREAMstock, the annual all DREAM mentor retreat at Camp.

**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 programs included:

- Two Fridays of small group activities and one-on-one time, to help new mentors and children get to know each other better.
- The annual Chili Cook-Off, which brought together 5 of the 8 DREAM programs for a great fall afternoon of activities, a capella shows, dancing, and food on the Red Stone Green at UVM.
- A Halloween party on campus with Franklin St., which was filled with costumes, bobbing for apples, eating donuts off a string, and pumpkin painting.

**Special Events for Children:** Special events included:

- The mentors turning in the Burton Chill application this month. The Elm St. DREAM Program is planning on having 9 children and 2 mentors participate in Chill this winter. Chill is a program that strives to teach children, ranging in age 10 to 18, how to snowboard and have positive experiences in the outdoors.
- Both the Elm St. and Franklin St. programs participated in the UVM homecoming parade on the 6<sup>th</sup>. The mentors and children had a blast walking in front of and riding on the DREAM Bus during the parade. The theme for the parade this year was "Be Green", so the veggie oil powered DREAM Bus was a huge hit.



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**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, the mentors set November 13<sup>th</sup> as the date of their first LAB meeting this year.

**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:

- The UVM Chili Cook-Off raised more than \$600, which the Elm St. and Franklin St. programs will be splitting. The event was not only a fundraiser, but a great activity for the children and helped publicize DREAM at UVM.

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

- Bringing on 4 more children into the program, making a total of 12 new children brought into the program this fall!
- The mentors having weekly meetings every Monday this month where they discussed how to improve the program, worked on issues that arose, and planned the weekly Friday DREAMs. This month the mentor group broke into committees to help structure themselves and accomplish the most they can as a program. The committees are:
  - Annual Events
  - Fridays
  - Culminating Experiences
  - Teen DREAM
  - Community Development

**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:

- The mentor working to support each other during their weekly mentor meetings. Each meeting the mentors broke into groups based on the age of their mentee and discussed issues, child management strategies, and planned activities.
- DREAMstock, the all mentor retreat, took place the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> at Camp in Fletcher VT. Around 25 Elm St. mentors were able to attend the event! During DREAMstock mentors were able to network with other DREAM mentors, work on Camp building projects, have program team building time, and participate in two staff led trainings. Some training that were offered included: child management, high adventure planning, fundraising,



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understanding poverty, money management, parent/family communication, and programming planning.

**Other:** The mentors have started planning the culminating experience for the end of the semester. They set December 7<sup>th</sup> as the date for the semi-formal talent show, which is always a great time and huge hit with the children.

Keep DREAMing!

Chad Butt  
Programs Director