

Community Connections



Volume 1/Issue 1

January 30, 2006

DREAM: An Opportunity of a Lifetime

By

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DREAM presents a unique opportunity for one and all. Where else would you get the chance to be involved with seventeen children so intensely that they consider you one of their best friends, as well as the chance to become part of a community that opens their hearts and homes to you?



Trick or Treating with DREAM kids. The kids dressed up as Mentors.

The DREAM (Directing through Recreation, Education, Adventure and Mentoring) program was created by several Dartmouth students and has become a non-profit for over seven low-income neighborhoods. In the fall of 2004 ten Champlain College students started the Champlain program that would grow enormously over the course of its two year run. "DREAM has become more than a connection with one child. It connects you to seventeen

families and an entire community" says Josh Warren, a Champlain DREAM member.

Currently, Champlain's DREAM program has seventeen mentoring pairs and is entirely a student initiative, as the program is theirs to mold. Not only does the group meet every Friday, but they also fundraise and plan exciting culminating trips like the past ones to Boston, Montreal, Lake Placid and soon to come, New York City!

The program is not just another mentoring organization it stands above the rest. It has been named the best Mentoring Organization in Vermont for the past two years and is constantly growing and evolving since its beginning back in 1999. The kids enjoy activities ranging from rock climbing, doing community service, bowling, and camping. And this fun lasts all year round as kids can enjoy DREAM Camp and DREAM program interns during the summer months. Plus, as Paul Biggs, a Dartmouth Dream Alum states, "It is absolutely without question, the most fun and meaningful college experience I have ever had!"

The reason DREAM is so effective for both the children being mentored and the college mentors themselves is because it feeds off of its

contagious energy. “Once you enter DREAM you are hooked for life!” Katie Wiseman, a Champlain DREAM member, tells of her devotion to the program. Every mentor and every child brings a new dynamic that makes DREAM exciting and there is certainly never a dull moment when you have seventeen entertaining children.

DREAM helps to build communities of families and college students that empower children from affordable housing neighborhoods to recognize their options, make informed decisions, and achieve their dreams. There are many benefits for children involved with DREAM including broadening the span of what appears possible, showing support, creating lasting friendships, and building self-confidence.



Champlain DREAM at Petra Cliffs.
Let the adventure begin!

DREAM is always looking for other inspired, gifted and motivated individuals who want to really make a difference in children’s lives. You would make a fabulous mentor!

For more information please contact:

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