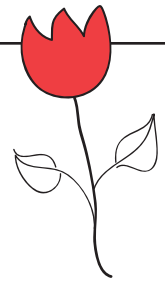




# BUILDING BLOCKS



Spring 2006

## Making Dreams Reality



Camp DREAM, located in Fletcher, Vermont, aims to offer innovative and inspiring camping experiences to the children we serve in our year-round program, and to build amongst them a sense of caring for community, environment, and self. In 2005, our second year of Camp Dream, the Children's Trust Fund played

a major part in funding incredible experiences for the children who attended Camp.

Over the course of last summer, we were able to give 71 children and 40 mentors from all over Vermont the chance to spend their days swimming, canoeing, kayaking, mountain biking, hiking, catching frogs in puddles, playing Capture the Flag and countless other woodsy games. The children bonded through campfires, ropes course teamwork activities, and tent-camping. Together with work crews from AmeriCorps NCCC, Youthbuild, Ben and Jerry's, and Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, campers built tent platforms, docks, and a boardwalk, as well as created a new mountain bike trail and an organic garden.

Camp sessions fostered new-found feelings of self-confidence and environmental awareness among the campers, and helped to greatly amplify their sense of connectedness to DREAM as a whole. We saw the beginnings of a new "Camp culture" and the strengthening of interpersonal relationships among children from the different Vermont housing communities with which DREAM works.

With the help of CTF's continuing support, the summer of 2006 looks to be better than ever. This summer, Camp Dream will focus on promoting themes of environmental education and self-reliance. We will conduct tubing trips on the Lamoille River, visit local organic farms as part of Camp's burgeoning local foods program, and start construction on a tree-house cabin, an Adirondack-style lean-to, and a composting outhouse. We are hoping to increase our Camper attendance to over 100 DREAM children.

### Camp DREAM quick stats for summer 2005:

- 71 children attended Camp DREAM
- 6 weeks of DREAM camp sessions
- 6 full-time staff at Camp DREAM
- 3,080 hours served by work crews
- 30 volunteers serving as Camp staff and building crew

## Vermont Children's Trust Fund

Summer 2006 Grants

**The children of Vermont needed you and you were there. Thanks to your donations, the following grants have been awarded for Summer 2006.**

For 2006 summer programs 29 requests were received, totaling \$146,139. Thirteen grants were awarded totaling \$51,131.

### Addison County:

**Mary Johnson Children's Center - Camp L-I-T (Leaders in Training)**  
**\$3,000**

Preparation of teen leaders using youth development techniques to springboard community benefit and improvement.

**Middlebury United Methodist Church - Middlebury Area Summer Lunch and Recreation Support Group**  
**\$2,500**

Middsummer '06 is a four-day per week program running for five weeks during the summer for youngsters in grades 4 through 8. The program, led by a Mary Hogan Elementary School teacher, will include adventure-based activities, organic gardening, cooking, arts and crafts, music and 60 minutes of physical activity each day.

### Bennington County:

**Sunrise Family Resource Center - Sunrise Community Picnics**  
**\$2,136**

A support opportunity where parents of all ages (including teen parents) can develop social support, learn more about community resources and healthy parenting.

### Caledonia County

**Orleans Central Supervisory Union- Summer Theater Program**  
**\$5,050**

An in-depth theater experience for introducing theater production, performance techniques, and dramatic expression.

### Chittenden County

**Access to CVU - CVU Summer Camp**  
**\$3,000**

A transition to high school opportunity for incoming ninth graders.

**The DREAM Program - DREAM Camp**

**\$8,975**

A summer camp for children involved in DREAM's nine mentoring program sites throughout Vermont.

**City of Winooski - Winooski Summer Youth Enrichment Project**  
**\$4,250**

The Winooski Summer Youth Enrichment Project serves underserved youth ages 1-18 (with a focus on children 6-14) for nine weeks during the summer. The project provides healthy meals, supervised activities and opportunities for learning in a safe and nurturing environment.

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## Our Summer Grantee List, continued

### Lamoille County

#### **Johnson Skate Park Committee - Johnson Skate Park and Bike Track** **\$2,702**

Activities at the park which encourage healthy recreation, asset-building and tobacco/substance abuse education.

### Orleans County

#### **Albany Community School - Albany Summer Enrichment Camp** **\$5,000**

Summer camp for students ages 5-14 focused on contextual learning of reading and math.

### Rutland County

#### **Rutland South Supervisory Union - Technology is Fun** **\$6,450**

A summer technology camp for children in grades 4-8.

### Washington County

#### **Northern New England Tradeswomen - Rosie's Girls Summer Program** **\$5,823**

Rosie's Girls Summer Program is a unique trades exploration camp for girls entering 6th - 8th grades. The day camp runs for three weeks in the summer in Barre, VT.

#### **Twinfield Learning Center - TLC-Earth Walk Summer Camp** **\$3,701**

Three week outdoor adventure summer day camp for children of the Washington Northeast Supervisory Union (Twinfield and Cabot).

### Windham County

#### **Wings Community Program - Summer Program** **\$4,740**

The program provides recreational and enrichment experiences for pre-K through 5th graders. Programming takes place at the local elementary/middle school and runs for four weeks during the month of July.



## The Polar Express . . .

Heads back to Union Station December 16th & 17th for our fifth annual holiday event. As we did last year, we'll have 7 trains each day for a total capacity of just about 3300 riders. **THE POLAR EXPRESS** is an extremely popular event. Even with 3300 seats, we expect demand to exceed the number of tickets available. Therefore, in the spirit of fairness, we will once again offer tickets to the general public via lottery.

There's still time to make a donation to the Vermont Children's Trust Foundation and get on **THE POLAR EXPRESS** advance ticket sale list. If you make a donation to VCTF before June 30, you will automatically receive an opportunity to purchase tickets via mail in September. Please use the enclosed donor envelope and get your donations to us before June 30. To qualify, donations must be in the amount of \$50 or more.

Another way for you to participate in this year's event is to become a **BELL RINGER SPONSOR**. If you sponsor at the \$100, \$250, \$500 or \$1000 level, we will list your name in the event songbook, and you'll have the opportunity to purchase up to five tickets. Just use the enclosed envelope and state that your donation is for bell ringer sponsorship.

If you're interested in volunteering at **THE POLAR EXPRESS**, check our website after Labor Day for elf sign up instructions. [www.vtchildrenstrust.org](http://www.vtchildrenstrust.org)



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