



The Daily Dreamer

Newsletter #9

October 2009



CAMP OF DREAMS

Whole Communities

Whole Learners

Whole Lives

Kicking Off Community Days 2009-2010

Our 2009-2010 Community Day programming began again on September 12th with an eager and rapidly growing group of Dreamers. Our first 2 Saturdays at LEARN Charter School were extremely successful. We had a total of 94 students on our first day and an all-time high of 114 Dreamers for our second day (a more than 100% increase from one year ago). We are privileged to have such an amazing group of Dreamers and staff, and continue to welcome new families and volunteers.

A Community Day in the Life of

A typical Community Day for Princess Nelson, a 10th grade Dreamer, starts with Leadership Class, which focuses on problem solving, goal-setting, communication and teamwork. Next, Princess shows her growing leadership style and helps lead community activity - an exciting game of dodgeball with the whole gang. Then she's on to Spoken Word, which examines poetry as an oral



tradition. The class discusses the importance of portraying emotion while reading poetry, then puts what they've learned to the test as everyone performs their own piece.

Third grade Dreamer Aldo Davila starts Community Day with Math Games, where he combines learning and fun with "roll back" - a dice game of chance that teaches both math and strategy. Next, Aldo joins the group to watch the highly anticipated summer camp video, loving seeing himself and his friends on the "big screen." Moving on to Yoga, he practices the positions and discusses theory and discipline of yoga. Aldo ends his Community Day by talking with other Dreamers and eagerly running to his Dad with his own copy of the summer DVD, excited to share it with his family!



"Camp of Dreams Gives Our Children a Chance"

Ebony Muhammad is a dedicated Camp of Dreams parent and Board Member. She says that CoD has given her sons "the opportunity to have fun but also challenges them academically." They keep coming back because "it's almost as if we have an extended family." Ebony believes in Camp of Dreams because "Camp of Dreams believes in our children...it gives them a chance and a sense of hope."



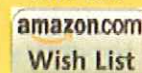
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Dreamer Wish List

- Spiral notebooks
- Pens and pencils
- Markers, crayons, and colored pencils
- Construction paper
- Durable easels
- Easel-sized pads of paper
- 3 ring binders (1")
- Speakers for iPod
- Disposable cameras
- Current guide to U.S. colleges
- Children's and young adult books
- Board games
- G-rated movies

To donate any items, please call 312.649.5551 or find our



on our website: www.campofdreams.org

Upcoming Events

November 7 th	Community Day 1-4 PM
November 21 st	Community Day 1-4 PM
December 5 th	Community Day 1-4 PM
December 19 th	Community Day 1-4 PM
January 15 th	Bulls Tickets for Happiness
January 16 th	Community Day 1-4 PM
January 30 th	Community Day 1-4 PM

Be on the lookout for Camp of Dreams' signature event in the spring.

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What if you could donate to Camp of Dreams just by surfing the internet? You can, and it's as easy as it sounds! Please consider using www.goodsearch.com (powered by Yahoo!) or www.isearchigive.com. If you register as a Camp of Dreams fan, every time you perform a search using one of these sites, a donation is made to Camp of Dreams. Use www.igive.com to do your online shopping too, and a percentage of each purchase you make gets donated back to Camp of Dreams.



Don't forget to become a fan of Camp of Dreams on Facebook, or register with ActofGood.org to keep track of

events we're hosting, check out photos, and connect with other Camp of Dreams supporters.

facebook

Meet Our Teachers



Angela Montagna has worked with CoD for four years, teaching yoga and developing the high school program. She thinks CoD provides a safe space for young people to explore their interests and develop necessary social and emotional skills. Angela does programming and resource development for Chicago Youth Centers.

Jennifer Steele fell in love with CoD kids three years ago. An active poet, she is an arts and youth advocate and has taught creative writing and music history to our Dreamers. She teaches Media Arts for Digital Youth Network at Carter G. Woodson Middle School.

Jeff Hawkinson assistant teaches at Rogers Park Montessori and serves as City Year's Alumni Board Chair. He has been with CoD two years and teaches creative writing, group games, and world cultures.

Rebecca Chauncey is a bilingual communications consultant. She teaches motivational music and Spanish at CoD. Rebecca works with Camp of Dreams students because she believes that the organization helps children reach their unlimited potential.

Tim Young has been part of CoD since 2007. He has taught football, percussion, music, and song writing. Tim is a current student at Saint Xavier University majoring in Vocal Music performance.

Lori Coomes has worked with CoD for over five years and is the Director of Operations. This fall she is excited to get back into the classroom teaching the 11th grade community service program and helping the 12th grade students prepare for college. She is currently receiving her masters in Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago.

Summer Fun

CAMP 2009 Was Divine

Thanks to you, 70 Dreamers (our biggest camp ever!) spent 3 weeks at camp taking enrichment classes, playing capture the flag, swimming, and learning to be a strong community.

Twelve of our high school Dreamers worked as junior staff and we're very proud of them! They took their positions of leadership seriously, did a great job of motivating the younger Dreamers, and showed maturity and good judgment with the added responsibility.

Favorite classes this year included hip hop dance, percussion, leadership, extreme duct tape sports, and a new offering, West African dance. "Watching them in their colorful garb learning traditional dances was such a joy" says Lori Coomes who, amongst her many roles at Camp of Dreams, acts as the Director of summer camp.

Other highlights this summer— *Camp Olympics*, where Dreamers work together on challenges like relay races, a low ropes challenge, an egg drop, and canoe races; *High school service project*, where our high school Dreamers cleared brush and built a new frame for the nurses' office; *"camp outs"* complete with cooking outdoors, sleeping under the stars,

and of course some tasty s' mores. Camp was so awesome that the kids are already counting down the days until summer 2010.



"Great friends, family away from family, everything you could wish for." *Dreamer, age 8*

CoD Cruises to College

What do you get when you combine 18 Dreamers, 7 Illinois universities, one week, and 4000 miles on a bus? The incredibly successful, first annual Camp of Dreams College Tour!



"My experience was fantastic...I learned a ton of new things that will definitely help me on my future endeavors."

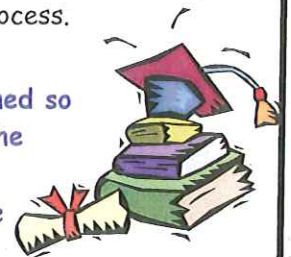
--Mercedes Scott, 11th grade

Our Dreamers attended admissions presentations, asked questions of admissions and financial aid officers as well as current students, toured each campus, and even stayed in dorms!

Our staff led daily workshops on issues such as the college process, strategies for success in the challenging world of higher education, financial aid, declaring a major, and goal-setting. Our students set professional goals and developed plans to reach those goals, attended a panel about different types of schools and finding the right fit, discussed time management and academic motivation, and began working through the application process.

"It has been a great experience. I have learned so much about myself and the college experience."

--Andre Nelson, 10th grade



We would like to thank Subway and Whole Foods for hosting this year's Friends and Family Day. Their generous donations added to a wonderful day celebrating what our Dreamers learned at Camp.

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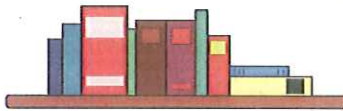
Kristen Campbell

High School Service

25 high school Dreamers helped protect the beautiful woods at the Cook County Forest preserve on October 10th as part of their commitment to community service. Service is a vital aspect in our High School program - building character and leadership skills for our eldest Dreamers.

They will also attend a jazz performance on November 6th. It will be a wonderful opportunity to expose Dreamers to the Chicago Jazz and Heritage program, which seeks to connect people from all backgrounds and ages to the musical and spiritual legacy of jazz.

Join the CoD Family!



Many thanks to 8 volunteers from United Health Networks who helped run the Camp of Dreams Book Fair on October 8th, where we sold hundreds of books and DVDs, all while raising awareness for CoD. Thanks to everyone who donated to or attended the Book Fair. You really made this event a success!

Involvement with Camp of Dreams is easy. Assist a teacher in our Saturday classes. Host a house party for CoD supporters. Volunteer to supervise a high school service project. It's up to you. If you have an idea for a project or fundraiser that would benefit our Dreamers, or if you'd like to broaden your Camp of Dreams experience, let us know. We'd love to work with you!

Tickets to Happiness is Back! Calling Bulls fans and fans of a good time. CoD will hold its annual Chicago Bulls "Tickets to Happiness" on **Friday, January 15, 2010 at 7:00pm** as the Bulls tangle with the Washington Wizards at the United Center. The tickets are better than last year and are available for just \$60. All ticket sales benefit CoD. Quantities are limited, so order your tickets today! Please contact Stephen Weber at wrigleyweb@gmail.com or 312.266.0123 to buy tickets for yourself or to treat a Dreamer.



*Camp of
Dreams is
Going Green!*

Please send us your e-mail address so we can do our part towards environmental conservation and move to e-newsletters!



Camp of Dreams is a Chicago non-profit organization that provides free educational and cultural enrichment opportunities to over 150 youth between the ages of 8 and 18 years. Our program specifically targets kids coming from some of the most underserved families in Chicago, and through year-round involvement, aims to build a nurturing community in which they can develop the life skills and confidence necessary to reach their full potential.

We offer a comprehensive curriculum that includes academic and cultural classes during the school year, a three-week overnight summer camp, as well as a high school program comprised of quarterly community service projects, leadership retreats, and a college tour. In all of our activities, our young people learn about accountability, respect, independence, and about following through with themselves, their peers, and their broader community.

Most importantly, our program is fun and engaging, and a life-changing experience for all of our Dreamers. To receive more information about applying to, working with, volunteering for, or donating to Camp of Dreams, please see our website, www.campofdreams.org, contact us at info@campofdreams.org, or call 312.649.5551.

