



DREAMing a Bigger World

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DREAMing a Bigger World

In the past year, DREAMers have taken two exciting trips that opened up the world for these boys and young men.

During spring break, twenty-two DREAMers traveled to Chicago for an amazing educational and team-building experience. DREAMers volunteered at By The Hand, an after-school program on the West Side. One DREAMer, Anaryon was proud that he could teach math to the younger boys. "Some of them had a hard time," said Anaryon, "but I helped them out."



The DREAMers visited the Pullman Historic District to learn about how the Pullman Porters, African American men who worked on the sleeping car trains, formed a union to advocate for fair treatment. "They were great men," said Anaryon, who was impressed by how the men organized for more pay and better working conditions.

In July, 34 DREAMers and 15 brave parents and volunteers joined the DREAM Team on a trip to Baltimore, MD to present at the Presbyterian Church's Big Tent Conference. After the DREAMers demonstrated their morning chant, welcome chant, and tribe chants, Mr. Tracy described the DREAM early intervention model and his efforts to use evidence-based, culturally informed practices in DREAM House programming. After the presentation, they visited Washington, DC, where they toured monuments and museums and made lifelong memories. Some of the boys even imagined their futures in Washington, D.C. One of the DREAMers explained that he kept his hotel key cards, "So when I look at them, I can think about all the interesting places I visited in DC. I want to live there one day."

These transformative experiences have helped the boys to dream of the possibilities their futures may hold. DREAM House works each day to guide and encourage the boys to develop the skills needed to reach their dreams.



Featured DREAMER

JaMarcus Clarette

JaMarcus was in the first class of students at DREAM House five years ago. When he first started, he was "nervous," because there were so many new people, but now, he says, "everybody is my friend." JaMarcus is a fourth grader at Booker T. Washington STEM Academy in Champaign. He enjoys reading and lessons in STEM. His favorite activity is cooking. He also likes coming to DREAM, "It's fun!"





Featured Volunteer **Mariah Hanson**

Mariah Hanson interned at DREAM House for her Master of Social Work program at University of Illinois. She found her work with the 27 boys in the Kindergarten Jumpstart program very rewarding. "This organization serves children in the Champaign-Urbana community that are often overlooked. DREAM House invites them into a larger family and creates a space for them to learn and discover who they are. It's my dream to help facilitate an environment where boys who are otherwise overlooked, can thrive and achieve the dreams they didn't even realize they had."

What is happening at DREAM?

Dear DREAM Family and Friends,

Welcome to our first DREAM newsletter! Since the beginning, DREAM has been about relationships. We hope this newsletter will help our extended DREAM family to stay connected. We are trying to build our contact list. Will you please visit bit.ly/DREAMHouse to make sure we have your email address and contact info?

2019 has been a busy year with many exciting developments at DREAM:

The summer program was an amazing experience! Thanks to our many partners, we offered kindergarten readiness, health enrichment, outdoor play, and youth employment to over **130 boys, young men, and their families** across the county in Champaign, Urbana, and Rantoul.

Have you been to dream.org lately? We recently redesigned the site and have announced a new college and career readiness program, called **Dream Big!**

Did you know part of the DREAM mission is to reach, teach, and invest in young people, ages 16-24? This year, we provided academic support, life skills, part-time jobs, and mentoring to over **20 young people**.



Thanks to a growing partnership with University Place Christian Church, DREAM House has a permanent home in Champaign to offer all youth programming under one roof. **We are making progress in building a community space of hope and opportunity for DREAMers.**

DREAMers and parents have been experiencing nature more since summer. We've gone camping, horseback riding, fishing, and hiking at local parks. Some parents were even brave enough to try ziplining!

More to come in 2020 with new partnerships, exciting programming, and more family enrichment activities. **Hint: We need more volunteers!** If you'd like to help out, please contact us at info@dream.org or (217) 530-0110.

Thank you for your support of our boys and young men!

Tracy D. Dace, Founder and Executive Director

Bookshelves

iPads or Android tablets

Dumbbells, weights, fitness equipment

Gift cards for incentives

Wish List

Gloves, hats and scarves

Art supplies

Household items (laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, etc.)

After-school / Saturday male volunteers