

UB DREAM PROGRAM

Overview of the UB DREAM Program

In 2004, the Community Concentration of the UB School of Social Work spearheaded the UB DREAM Program. The acronym DREAM stands for: Developing Relationships through Empowerment, Advocacy, and Motivation. The DREAM Program's mission is "to provide families support for short-term success in the environment and long-term success in our greater community."

The UB DREAM Team originally held "DREAM Night" every Saturday evening from 6:00 pm to 10:00 p.m. at Gerard Place, a transitional housing offering support and services for homeless, single parents and their children. The night consisted of sharing movies, games, food and warm conversation with residents. The purpose of this evening was to give residents a communication outlet in a comfortable setting and to foster the development of community spirit.

In February 2006, based on changing needs at Gerard Place, DREAM Night ended. However, the DREAM TEAM continued a "successful" bi-weekly education enrichment program designed to assist residents with GED attainment and other educational goals. As needs were met and changes continued to take place, the DREAM Program ventured out.

Today, the UB DREAM Team is working with "The Girls Sports Foundation (GSF)." The GSF seeks to mentor under privileged girls ages 4-18 so that they become successful members of society. The DREAM Program assists the Foundation with mentoring, role modeling, tutoring, as well as creating a peaceful environment filled with positive behaviors and actions that inspire and empower the girls to improve their attitudes, expand their knowledge and reach their ultimate goals (GSF, 2007).

The DREAM Program operates strictly on a volunteer basis. Each student/member is encouraged to participate as possible, however, there are no minimum requirement or set number of hours one must fulfill to be a volunteer. All the program asks for is open communication between members and that volunteers maintain their own commitments.

**To find out more information about the program
or about becoming a volunteer, please contact:**

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