



Dreams for Kids

Changing Lives . . . One Kid at a Time

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The Circle of Giving

The Dream Leaders Program helps teenagers see their challenges in life, whether that be living with a disability, coming from a low-income environment, or even having a bad relationship with a parent, not as obstacles, but rather the motivation to help others. "There's a tangible moment of transformation," explains Abby Kritzler, the Dream Leaders Director, "when a child stops looking at himself as a victim, and starts looking at himself as a change maker."

Through workshops that challenge students to look inside themselves and recognize the gifts they have been given, Dream Leaders provides them with a new perspective on the world

and their role in it. As Devion Johnson, a freshman at Harlan Community Academy High School on Chicago's South Side explains, "I noticed that I have wanted things for myself instead of wanting things for the world as a whole. I will change the way I see things in the future."

By exposing the Dream Leaders to different social issues faced by other children in their local and global communities, and showing them how they can play an active role in alleviating them, students are empowered to take action.

When the Dream Leaders at Harlan and Whitney Young Magnet High School learned their peers with disabilities at the Illinois Center for Rehabilitation and Education (ICRE) were going to have to

cancel a life-changing scuba trip, they took action. The Dream Leaders sold



Mother's Day cards, gave their own lunch money, and held a school wide carnival to ensure their ICRE peers would have their trip! The ICRE students were so

touched by their kindness that they wanted to pay it forward. Carrie, a student who has lived with Cerebral Palsy her whole life, explained, "It goes full circle. Being helped makes you want to help." So, after attending a series of Dream Leaders workshops, the ICRE students held bake sales to send wheelchairs to children overseas.

Join the Dream Leaders movement by attending one of our life-changing Dream Leaders Conferences. Contact Abby at abby@dreamsforkids.org to become involved today!



"It helped me to realize the importance of people, disabled, orange, black, white, blue, or whatever. I gained a lot from becoming a Dream Leader, but most importantly feeling like a part of change." - Terri Kimbrew, 14, Harlan

We Welcome new board member Rich Ceffalio, Kevin McFarland, Development Counsel, our new Associate Board, and the newest members of our Dream Team into our

Be the First to Know!



We have some extraordinary news that we can barely wait to reveal about Dreams for Kids and the Chicago Blackhawks!!!

Be the first to get the news by signing up for our e-newsletter at <http://www.DreamsforKids.org/dreams-kids-newsletter>

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- ◆ Carrie Dorsey
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- ◆ Laura Hlavaty
- ◆ Nan Howard
- ◆ Lauren Locke
- ◆ Mecca Pickens

Ways to Help

- ◆ Attend a Dream Leaders Conference
- ◆ Tell us about kids with disabilities who would like to participate in Extreme Recess
- ◆ Send us auction items for fundraisers
- ◆ Connect us to corporate sponsorships
- ◆ Find food and beverage donations for events
- ◆ Bring friends to fundraisers and events
- ◆ Run a Toy Drive for Holiday for Hope
- ◆ Volunteer at an event
- ◆ Become a Dream Leader Facilitator
- ◆ Secure professional photographers and videographers to capture events
- ◆ Let us know your new ideas!



Play Family Fantasy Football

Have fun with your whole family while supporting Dreams for Kids!!

Family Fantasy Sports is an online game where players of all ages and experience can create "fantasy" NFL teams and compete in an eight person league with your friends, family, or other DFK supporters over a 17 week season.

Go to DreamsForKids.org and sign up today.
(50% of the sign-up fee will go directly to DFK)



Dreams for Kids launched in D.C.

Earlier this summer, DFK made an exciting move by expanding its operations to Washington DC. With the help of DFK-Chicago and Affinity Lab (providing work space for over 20 nonprofits and start up companies in the area), we have the privilege of working in the heart of the nations capital. DFK-DC is making a name for themselves in DC under the direction of Andrew Horn, The National Chapter Director of Programming.

Working with Andrew are Deborah Greenberg and Sara Miller. Both are coordinating an incredible intern team from across the U.S. which includes Andrew Plofchan, Amanda Beylan, Whitney McGuire, Emily Schauer, Muku Mugwagwa and Kate Murphy. This summer, this amazing team has accomplished great things with much more to come!

DFK-DC hosted an Extreme Recess Adaptive Water Skiing Clinic for children with disabilities, or all abilities as we like to say, on July 18th at Pohick Bay! The life-changing event included adaptive skiing, hand cycling, jet ski rides, and arts & crafts!



In addition to this event, DFK-DC will expand our other programs this fall and winter. Soon, the Dream Leaders Program will begin breaking down social, racial, religious and economic barriers between children in the DC metropolitan area.

Recently, Dreams for Kids DC was contacted by Danny Pettry, a recreational therapist who recently wrote, "*Discover Hidden Secret Wisdom: A Recreational Therapists System on How You Can Become Great at Anything.*" The book is to be released on August 17, 2009 and will be available on Amazon. Mr. Pettry featured Dreams for Kids in the book and will be donating money from its proceeds. Thank you Mr. Pettry!

In a short time DFK-DC has built a reputation which will endure for generations in the National Capital Region.

Stay tuned for a summer Block Party Fundraiser, a Holiday for Hope event, the launch of the DFK-DC Dream Leaders Program, and more Extreme Recess events!



Our Gratitude...

To the following people for hosting unforgettable DFK Events and Fundraisers:

- Liz Richards and the Wauconda team
- Docks Bar and Grill
- Pierre Thomas of the New Orleans Saints, teammates Lance Moore and Rob Ninkovich and Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Nick Moore
- Chicago Joe's
- Marcus Jordan and AJ Rompza
- Tweet Networking for a Cause
- Chicago Charity Group
- Patrick Fardy
- Dream Leaders At Harlan Community Academy, Whitney Young, CITIES Project School-Milwaukee and the Illinois Center for Rehabilitation and Education

Thank you!

Help us Change Lives...One Kid at a Time!

Name:

Address:

City:

Zip:

Phone:

Email:



I want to make a difference!

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (payable to Dreams for Kids).

Please apply my donation to the following DFK program _____

You can also donate securely and privately online at
www.dreamsforkids.org/donate-dreams-kids



155 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 700
Chicago, IL 60601

Save the Date:

Friday October 16th, 2009

20th Anniversary Party

At Chicago's Adler Planetarium

Celebrate the Past

Create the Future

Change the World!



Our mission is to empower young people of all abilities through dynamic leadership programs and life changing activities that inspire them to fearlessly pursue their dreams and compassionately change the world.



Phone: 312-729-5404 Toll Free: 866-729-5454 Fax: 312-729-8401 info@dreamsforkids.org www.dreamsforkids.org

Calendar of Events

- August 11th Extreme Recess Adaptive Water Skiing- Twin Lakes, WI
- August 12th-17th Dive Heart Adaptive Scuba Diving- Florida Keys, FL
- August 22nd Dream Leaders Conference- Columbia College, Chicago, IL
- August 29th Dreams for Kids Lawless Volleyball Tournament- North Ave. Beach, Chicago, IL
- September TBD Blackhawks Press Party—Chicago, IL
- September 23rd 20th Anniversary Dreams for Kids Golf Outing- Lemont, IL



To participate or volunteer in any of these events, contact

Follow us on [Twitter.com/dreamsforkids](https://twitter.com/dreamsforkids) and become our Fan on Facebook!