

BIG PICTURE of DREAAM

Our mission & vision:

DREAAM is a community impact organization with a mission to disrupt generational cycles of poverty and trauma by providing healing-centered services and educational programming that transforms and empowers our DREAAMers and their families.

- Founded in 2015
- Approved 501(c)3 in 2017



REACH.

TEACH.

July 2021 – May 2022

- **BEGINNERS** (ages 3-5)
 - 85 DREAAmers
- **ACHIEVERS** (ages 6-9)
 - 120 DREAAmers
- **BELIEVERS** (ages 10-13)
 - 70 DREAAmers
- **CHASERS** (ages 14-24)
 - 76 DREAAmers





DREAM Summer 2022

Vision:

- **To reach, teach, and empower 500 DREAMers who are kindergarten through 24 years of age**

Number of Programs: 9

Program Locations:

- **University Place Church**
- **Jefferson Middle School**
- **Westview Elementary School**
- **First United Methodist Church – Champaign**
- **Faith United Methodist Church – Rantoul**
- **Broadmeadow Elementary School**
- **Rantoul Township High School**

Please note that DREAM has no programs in Urbana.

**REACH.
TEACH.
EMPOWER.**



DREAAM 2022 & 2023 GOALS:

- Expand to provide mental and behavioral health services for children and adults
- Implement Hope for the Future: A Path to Proactive Violence Prevention in Champaign, Rantoul, and Urbana

Hope for the Future

Champaign County Model

Vision: Two-year pilot initiative to impact 1,000+ people with wellness, mental health, and educational programs to develop a path to proactive violence prevention.





Strategy #1: Wellness for ALL

Physical, Mental, Academic,
Cultural

Research: A growing body of research is making the case for play to boost the well-being of young children as we work through the impact of the pandemic (Mader, 2021).

Caregivers who pay attention to their own physical and emotional health are better able to handle the challenges of supporting someone with mental illness (NAMI).

Outcomes: Implemented our first 6-week soccer camp program reaching over 100 K-5th graders and their families in Champaign, Urbana, and Rantoul. Flag football is the current wellness program taking place in Champaign.

Nutritional lessons and fruit items were given to each family every week. Youth were completing daily workouts at home with their families. Social emotional learning was taught during the soccer skills and drills to our youth and their families.



Strategy #2: Hope for Boys

Healing, Health, and Prevention Services

- **Research:** Cultural identity is an important contributor to people's wellbeing. Identifying with a particular culture helps people feel they belong and gives them a sense of security (Diaz & Bui, 2017). The prevention efforts targeted at limiting youth involvement in gangs is integral to promoting optimal individual and community well-being (Youth.gov).
- **Outcomes:** Relationship building was implemented in phase one (1) through creating a basketball program for our 6th – 9th grade DREAMERS. They experience group-based mentoring, mental health care programming, and quality physical activities through practice, travel, being coached, and playing games against other teams. The goal is to grow socially, athletically, and in their leadership abilities on and off the court, in order to increase conflict resolution and violence prevention.

Strategy #3: Black Family Wellness

Wraparound Services for Boys Ages 3-6

Research: Young people in Wraparound tend to have better outcomes than similar young people who don't receive Wraparound, across different areas of their lives including mental health, and functioning in their homes, schools and communities (samhsa.gov).

Outcomes: We have recently trained, equipped, and hired four wraparound facilitators and have three families enrolled in our program.

We are partnering with Stratton and Urbana Early Childhood to provide effective wraparound services for our youth and families.

