

Dreaming out LOUD



December 2010

When Dreams Emerge, Communities Arise!

I am Fred Smith, Chairman of the Board of Dreaming Out Loud, Inc. Dreaming Out Loud (DOL) began in 2008 in the founder and executive director, Christopher Bradshaw's apartment, with a computer his mother gave him and a dream he had to inspire young people to improve their communities and themselves, hence the organization's motto "*When Dreams Emerge, Communities Arise!*"

Chris has come a long way since those days of "sitting in my living room not fully aware of what was coming next and filled with the anxiety of what to do next." DOL has progressed and many of Chris' dreams for the organization have been realized. The organization now operates out of shared space in a great location; the work Chris and the partners he has engaged have positively recognized in the local media, by funders, District government agencies as well as the District's learning communities.

A few of DOL's accomplishments include a successful program at Cesar Chavez Public Charter School for Public Policy in which the DOL Team worked with ten of their most academically and behaviorally challenged 9th graders. At the conclusion of the program the young people achieved a 30% reduction in detentions and a 27% decrease in suspensions. I invite you to visit our website at www.Dreamingoutloud.org to learn more. As a result of this work, DOL has been included in a Department of Education Promises Neighborhood planning grant recently awarded to Cesar Chavez.

This summer Project Dream Green, a program designed by Dreaming Out Loud and Groundwork Anacostia River DC, a non-profit supported by the DC government and the National Park Service, provided a six-week program to 72 youth participants from some of DC's most underserved neighborhoods. The participants worked to improve their communities, the environment and themselves. The quantitative impact of the program is detailed in the attached fact sheet: Project Dream Green: Summer 2010, By the Numbers.

Project Dream Green will continue this fall in four DC charter schools and a Boys and Girls Club--all of which are in underserved neighborhoods enrolling some of the District's most "at risk" students. As a result of Dreaming Out Loud's growth, one of its most immediate needs is for an After School Program Coordinator who will work with school personnel, DOL interns and volunteers to implement programs at four sites this Fall. A secondary need is for general operating support, which will underwrite the salary of the executive director who has been receiving little, if any, compensation since the organization began. I know of few people... young or old... who would take on the challenge Christopher has taken on or to give so much--beginning at such a young age, 26. He says he is committed to Dreaming Out Loud because it is his passion and it is a "hopeful organization"--and it is.

I am asking you to contribute to the inaugural Dreaming Out Loud Annual Campaign, beginning October, 2010 through September, 2011 by becoming an Annual Donor. This year's Annual Campaign goal is \$50,000. You can donate now at www.dreamingoutloud.org or by mailing your contribution to:

Dreaming Out Loud, Inc.
920 U Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

I hope we can count on your support. Your pledge or donation of \$50, \$100, \$500 or more would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Fred D. Smith

Rev. Dr. Fred D. Smith, Chairman
Board of Directors
Dreaming Out Loud

