**Notes from CAGOW session on Family Programming**

**Saturday, January 21, 2107**

**Magda Vergara and Connie Sheehy**

Magda and I each met with a group of about five participants. Magda’s group requested that they focus on programming for the parents group, so our group brainstormed ideas for alumni families with children.

**Service Projects:**

* Spend a morning working at a local food bank
* Plant a row of vegetables in a community garden for the homeless
* Adopt a hill – the San Francisco Club did this in Golden Gate Park – four times a year they weed out invasive plants.

**Cultural/Educational Offerings:**

* Explore programs available to children in local art museums. Be on the lookout for ties to Dr. Seuss content
* Consider Paint Bars (“The Drunken Palette”, “Paint ‘n Sip”) where adults and kids can be in the same vicinity but doing separate projects. Children supervised by the staff while the adults create with other staff and enjoy traditional refreshments.
* Informally gather at summer events already scheduled by your town: Wednesday concert series, Musicals in the park or at town beaches. Put up a Dartmouth banner and share food and kids.
* Watch for exciting new exhibits in local science museums, perhaps with an IMAX movie, or at city aquariums and plan a family event around them.
* Stay current with upcoming performances at local theatres, get a group rate on tickets, and schedule a Dartmouth only meet and greet with characters after the show.
* Research fun, educational programs at your local zoo along with their catering venues for an all day experience.

**Athletic/Sports Events:**

* Take a trip to a Go Cart track or a Ropes Course (currently one in Jordan’s Furniture in Boston)
* Plan an event around a Dartmouth soccer game or other contest. Arrange for the kids to meet the players afterwards.
* Get group tickets to a minor league baseball game and enjoy nachos and hot dogs together.
* Meet informally for hiking or biking along established trails in your town/city.
* Plan an apple picking excursion in the fall.
* Go Snow Tubing or bowling together in the winter.
* Spend an active day at the beach, hosted at the home of an alum, and finish the day with a clambake.

**Historical:**

Explore historical reenactments in your regions or presentations at local history museums that highlight your region’s role in, for example, the American Revolution.

**Current Student Parents ideas:**

Several regions mentioned outreach to new Dartmouth parents. Pot Luck suppers have worked well, which are mindful of everyone’s time, but allow for informal interchange of information about what to expect from the Dartmouth experience.

Overarching advice: Work with what you have in your local area and continue to survey your members about what might interest them and their families. The representative from Portland mentioned that their traditional Holiday Party may no longer be relevant (during a very busy time for most), and that a different event could be substituted during another time of the year.