

Annual Report

December 31, 2015



Climbing The Wall. Teammates help each other get up the 11-foot wall, scheming, planning, trying over and over again. They learn perseverance and bond in spirit as they attempt the Difficult and achieve the Goal!

When youth take part in climbing The Wall during Dunrovin LEAD activities, some stand at the bottom wondering how they can ever get to the top. Some struggle and need to be picked up, brushed off, and boosted again. But by teamwork, laced generously with encouragement and a "can-do" attitude, all of our LEAD participants eventually get to the top of the wall, where they give high fives and celebrate their team's accomplishment.

During 2015, I send out a high-five to our Dunrovin staff who gave 2015 all the energy and love in their hearts. Because of the dedication of this group of people, Dunrovin hosted 2,903 guests during 2015. We witnessed young people growing in courage and confidence. We respected the quiet for other groups who needed refuge and peace. We hugged farewell to a few staff members and then picked ourselves up to strive forward in growth.

Because of you, our friends and supporters, Dunrovin's youth programs all got to the top of the wall. The mission here is alive and well, flourishing. With humble gratitude, you are invited to see the fruit of your gifts. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, or should I say, from the top of The Wall.

Jerome Meeds, Executive Director

Total Guest Information

Dunrovin seeks to provide hope and refreshment to all who come to us by offering internal and external space for people to recognize that "we are in the holy presence of God" (St. John Baptist de La Salle). Located ten miles north of Stillwater, within the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, Dunrovin is a lovely site where people of all ages, faiths, and backgrounds are welcome to pray and relax.

In 2015, Dunrovin helped to underwrite the costs for 48% of our guest groups. Most of these groups were high school, college, and seminary students.

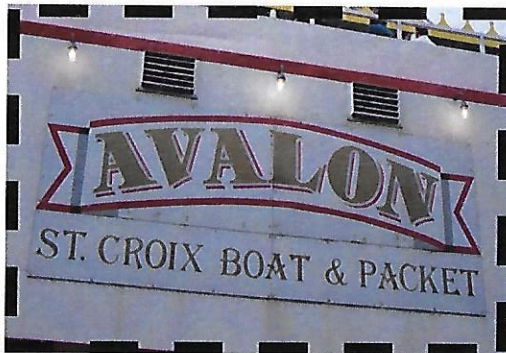
Retreat Center staff members endeavor to offer warm and caring hospitality for all who come, striving to provide a Christ-like environment through the kindness of the staff, delicious food, lovely grounds, and a quiet atmosphere.

"At Dunrovin, you are made to feel loved, wanted and valued." (David, 18)

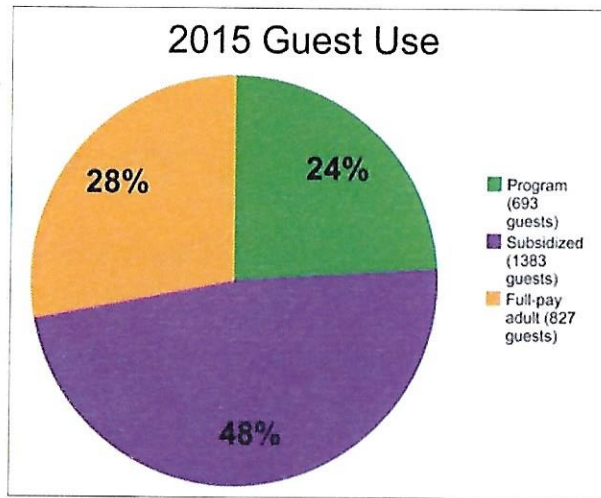
"Hospitality means more than serving a meal, opening a door, offering a bed.

It means opening our hearts to others." (Dorothy Day)

2,903 guests were welcomed in 2015, a 5% increase from 2014



Much gratitude to Dick Anderson and crew of the St. Croix Boat & Packet Co. in Stillwater!



Sunset Benefit Cruise

July 27, 2015

- Brother I Damien Award presented to Lynne Johnston in gratitude for her many years of supporting his dream to touch the hearts of young people.
- 375 people in attendance, a 24% increase from 2014.
- Matching grant from Greg & Cathy Stevens met and surpassed.
- Average donation = \$210, a 17% increase from 2014.

Mission Advancement

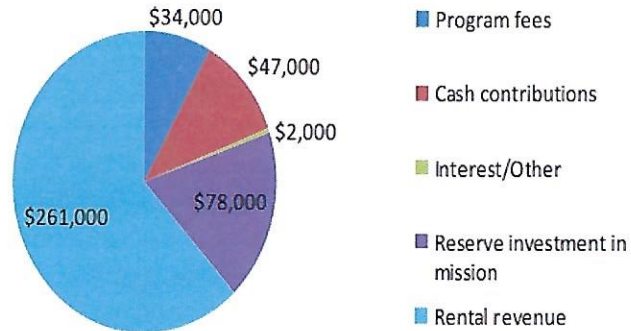
Fundraising (cash and in-kind gifts)

Sunset Benefit Cruise	\$23,000
Grants	14,000
Annual Appeal	2,700
Giving Tuesday	2,400
Miscellaneous cash contributions and in-kind	<u>15,800</u>

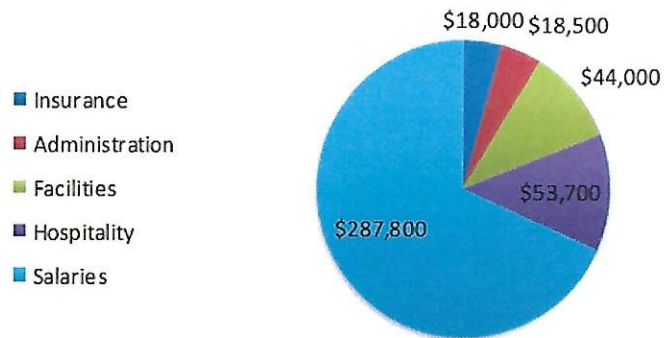
TOTAL \$57,900

In 2015, Dunrovin had a 5% increase in the number of guests served; this number includes four new initiatives with youth. Some of this growth was funded by Dunrovin's financial reserves. Dedicated to the work of the mission and in the Lasallian spirit committed to offer experiences of faith growth and leadership development for youth—and with a step in faith, believing in God's leading—we invested finances to continue to develop programs for the local Latino population. The soil is being tilled in Minneapolis youth. We are excited to continue to grow in the impact Dunrovin has in the lives of God's children.

2015 Summary Income



2015 Breakdown of Expenses



Moving ahead into 2016, Dunrovin is committed to continued growth of the mission with the financial resources to fund it. Action steps toward sustainability include:

- Good stewardship of finances
- Careful assessment of spending
- Fair and competitive pricing
- Increased marketing efforts
- Continued trust in God's provision

Mission Impact of Youth Programs

While Dunrovin's charism is to welcome all in Christian hospitality, our mission follows the Lasallian tradition, that is, to offer spiritual growth for youth, particularly to the economically poor. We are inspired by Pope Francis' words in *The Joy of the Gospel*: "The great majority of the poor have a special openness to the faith; they need God and we must offer...a journey of growth and maturity in faith." (#200.) Dunrovin's Getaway and LEAD (Leadership Experience At Dunrovin) programs embody our ambition for transformation in Christ.

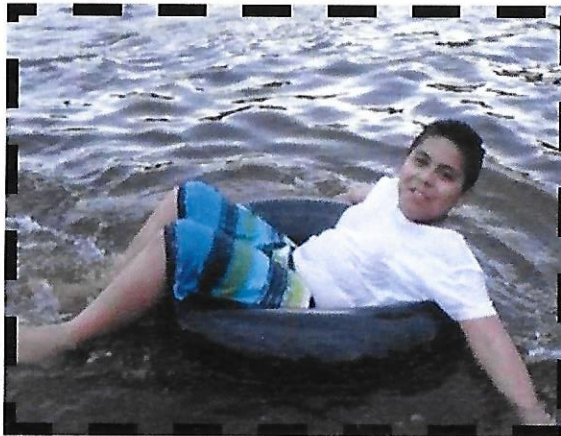
Youth Getaway Retreat weekends began in the mid-1990's. Junior or senior high school students come together to build a Christ-centered foundation in the Catholic faith through personal growth in prayer. By providing a faith-filled community, Getaway retreats help raise up young people to individual and relational growth with God, the Church, and others.

The roots of LEAD began in 2001 when students from San Miguel Schools in Chicago and Minneapolis came to Dunrovin for respite away from inner-city life. The camp program grew steadily during the next 15 years and, beginning in 2007, local teenagers were trained in leadership skills to mentor the campers. LEAD retreats are offered year-round for high school youth, with summer being the busiest time of service for the LEAD participants.

In 2013, youth from underserved parishes in Minneapolis and the surrounding area were invited to attend LEAD retreats, and we have welcomed many of the Catholic Latino population from the Twin Cities area. Since most LEAD participants come with their schools or churches, youth are able to return many times and progressively receive greater in-depth leadership training and team-building activities.

So what exactly are the goals for Dunrovin's youth programs?

- To bring youth into a caring environment where they can explore their Catholic faith with others by building a foundation on which to grow through prayer, development of personal character, community, and willingness to serve.
- To provide a place where youth are personally challenged to grow in faith, maturity, trust, hope, respect for others, listening and leadership skills, and recognition of their ability to impact the world.



Inner-city children relax and quiet their spirits as they spend time in the beauty of God's country.

Youth Getaway Retreats

- Led by youth ministers Jim Franzen, Mary Howard, Tim Stanoch
- 7 weekend retreats offered for jr/sr high students
- **Total 227 participants in 2015**

"In the small groups on retreat, people get to talk in depth about God. Most people never get a chance to talk about God like that with their peers, and it has an impact on them." (Amanda, Senior High Getaway)

AT DUNROVIN, EAGLES DO MORE THAN FLY!

You need ask only one guest to realize that the beauty of Creation is a prime reason people love to come to Dunrovin. God's peace and refreshment flow through to the soul here in the loveliness of water, sky, forest. Into the midst of these, enters Cole Wilson, a young man who is a well-known face on the Youth Getaway Retreats. To fulfill his Eagle Scout project in 2014, Cole designed and re-built the 75-foot long wooden walking bridge spanning a woodland spring. Whether used as a shortcut from one side to the other or a place to sit and pray, Cole's bridge is a well-loved spot. Not only do we admire the sturdiness of his bridge and the excellence of its construction, we also admire the fine character that Cole has as he seeks to live his life with the true honor of a Boy Scout and as a son of God.



Thank you, Eagle Scout Cole Wilson, for being part of the Dunrovin Getaway Retreats and for giving back to Dunrovin by building "Cole's Bridge". God bless you!



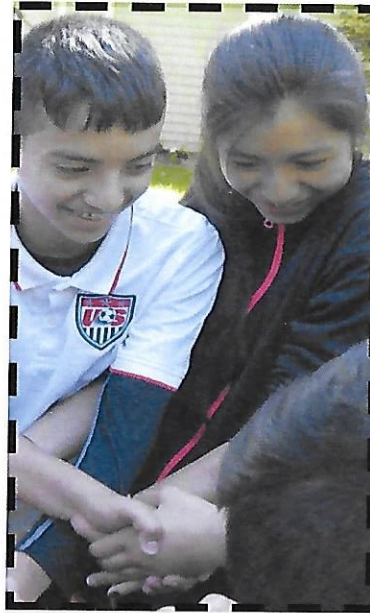
Learning to listen to God and meditate on His Word is an essential component of Getaway.

Special thanks to Cole's family and to Boy Scout Troop 9005 Woodbury for assisting Cole and giving him encouragement to soar like an Eagle!



LEAD

- Chicago program with San Miguel School
 - Led by Jerome Meeds and summer program staff
 - 5 overnight camps = 186 participants
 - 3 day camps = 135 participants
 - LEAD participants = 55 leadership retreat students
 - Total 321 participants in 2015**
- Twin Cities program
 - Led by Jerome Meeds, Dunrovin Leadership Team (DLT), and volunteers
 - 5 overnight retreats offered
 - Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis Latino ministry
 - Hope Academy
 - Phillips neighborhood of Minneapolis
 - St. Anthony, Cumberland, WI
 - St. Francis Latino youth ministry, St. Paul
 - St. Stephen's Latino youth ministry, Anoka
 - Total 145 participants in 2015**



Four pillars of LEAD:

- 1) Service/Mission
- 2) Community
- 3) Faith
- 4) Personal development

Summer LEAD

LEAD participants who serve the Chicago LEAD students are affectionately known as DLITErs—*Dunrovin Leadership Intensive Experience* participants. During June and July of 2015, **these energetic young people logged 3,330 hours of service** as they joined the San Miguel School Chicago students in prayer, play, and discussion. When not with the students, these high school youth took part in rigorous team-building skills.



The DLITE team is ready to catch a teammate during the Trust Fall.

"At Dunrovin, I learned that life is like a book. I'm the co-author and God is the author. And the choices I make either make my book interesting, fun, and thrilling—or boring." (Alondra)

"Dunrovin is where you can make strangers into family." (Richie)

Special thanks and congratulations to LEAD participant **Eagle Scout Jimmy Thomson** for his project—**an attractive deck, built out over the babbling stream, a beautiful spot to sit and refresh the spirit.**

INTRODUCING....



...the *Dunrovin Leadership Team*! With a combined experience of more than a decade serving with LEAD, Teresa Kostohris and Zach Richards are well qualified to pass on to other young leaders their love for youth and the Lord. Besides offering LEAD retreats, they serve Dunrovin as guest hosts and work in housekeeping/grounds. They also lend their phenomenal young person's magic with all things social media and electronic. Dunrovin expects 4 to 6 people on the 2016-2017 DLT.

MAJOR DONATIONS OF \$300 OR MORE

Aramark Uniform Services
Brother James J. Miller Social Justice Fund
Christian Brothers of the Midwest
Matthews-Sullivan Foundation
NET Ministries (gift in kind)
Premier Bank
Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities
St. Croix Boat & Packet/Dick Anderson
Bro. Michael Lee Anderson
Steve & Ling Becker
Robert Bilotta
C. Dennis O'Hare
Edith Continenza
Jeff Dobbs
Fr. John Donahue
Arlette Egan
Bob Gaffney
Jim, Becky, & Jimmy Thompson
Jim Franzen
Sara Freund
Brother Andrew Jacobson

James Johnson
Lynne Johnston
Chip Hooley
Bruce Kessel
Barbara Kozmik
Doug Kuplic
Stella Lundquist
Kathleen Lynch
Rebecca Lynn
Doris Muench
Paul & Marilyn Piazza
Ken & Kay Prom
Greg & Linda Rayment
Delores Schouweiler
John Schutz
Brother Robert Smith
Greg & Cathy Stevens
Family of Rosella Lynn
Fr. Tom Thompson
Robert & Colette Warner
Steve Welter
Mike & Tracey Wilson

Thank you for giving young people hope and courage in today's world.



Since 2013, Dunrovin staff members have participated in the Minnesota Adopt-A-Highway program on MN Hwy 95 just north of Stillwater.

"I have stayed at this space several times for retreats with my spiritual community. The chapel/meeting space is lovely, the meals are quite good, and they will accommodate special diets. The rooms are clean and comfortable. It is a retreat center, not a hotel, so things are simple and serene. The people working there are also lovely and worked with us very flexibly with our group's wants and needs."

(posted on TripAdvisor, March 2014)

Operations Update

- In August, we said, "Good-bye and thank you" to Jim Noon, administrator on staff since 2014. In December, we said the same to Bill and Denise Muske, after five years of living and working on-site. We are grateful to all three for the way they generously served and gave their friendship here at Dunrovin. May the Lord make His face shine upon you and keep you in His peace.
- Our cooks like the kitchen improvements which were much needed! The 51-year-old commercial kitchen stove was replaced along with several other necessary updates.
- Know that you are always welcome to come visit. Take a "tranquility walk" on the new bridge, or join us for an evening of camp fun! Your friendship and support keep us going. God bless you.



Students offer a huge "THANK YOU!" to all who provide funds to bring them to Dunrovin. All of the youth who come are grateful for your generosity. May God reward you for your kindness.

Live Jesus, in our hearts....forever!