

Dear Friends of Dunrovin,

This 2021 Annual Report packs a **punch of gratitude** for you, dear friends and benefactors. Your support through encouraging words, emails, phone calls, and visits speaks volumes to the Dunrovin staff and me. **Thank you** for upholding the legacy of the mission of the Retreat Center.

Now more than ever, I see the need for our youth – and people of all ages – to recover and refresh. Perhaps it is a pandemic oxymoron: As guest groups cancel, the desire for connection grows strong. Dunrovin's brand of ministry focuses on relationships. Through the years, I have witnessed a lot of youth programming where they talk at kids. However, Dunrovin walks alongside the young people with a philosophy that faith is caught, not taught. In the Lasallian tradition, we meet the kids where they're at, and they eventually open up. Relational ministry is about encounter, not instruction. Dunrovin Retreat Center was built in the early 1960s for us as lay people to model for students a lived-out faith. By inviting them to enter into God's presence, they can encounter a relationship with God. This encounter complements and enhances the rich Lasallian ministry upon which we stand.

Thank you for your support during the past year. I hope you find this report uplifting and transparent. Please let me know of your comments, questions, and concerns.

In Christ,

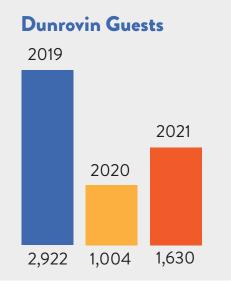
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Jerome Meeds, Executive Director 651-433-2486, ext. 303 Jerome.Meeds@dunrovin.org *Live, Jesus, in our hearts forever!* 



## **CLIMBING OUR WAY BACK**

Thanks be to God! Dunrovin Retreat Center successfully navigated pandemic-related challenges throughout 2021. With safety protocols in place, our staff welcomed groups back, hosting a growing number as the year progressed. By the end of 2021, we served 1,630 total guests, representing a 62% gain from 2020, returning us to just over half our pre-pandemic annual guest count.



Rental income, along with benefactor support, is critical to Dunrovin delivering youth programming at no cost to underserved youth. **Thank you!** Your trust in Dunrovin's mission transforms lives.



#### **Expect Exceptional**



Dunrovin's 2021 Guest Groups included adults and youth and represented a healthy mix of new and returning groups. Dunrovin's Hospitality Team is committed to delivering exceptional hospitality to all our guest groups.

- A warm welcome, plus a Guest Host throughout stay
- Delicious and nutritious homemade meals
- Clean, comfortable, quiet accommodations
- Private bedrooms and fresh linens
- Spacious worship and meeting rooms
- 50-acre woodland on the bluffs of the Saint Croix River
- Access to Eucharistic Chapel and library

#### Silver Lining

#### Pandemic Innovation Leads to New Relational Ministry

After a difficult year of isolation and stress, inner-city children and their parents found renewal in Dunrovin's safe and peaceful environment with our new Fam Jam relational ministry in the summer of 2021. We are **grateful** to area youth ministers who helped brainstorm this innovative encounter with Christ for their parish families. Dunrovin's DLITE teen leaders served as they led lawn games, water activities, family prayer, and community meals. Family relationships flourished and faith communities were strengthened as our Fam Jam guests experienced a day of refreshment. We extend our **most sincere gratitude** to the Lasallian Mission Opportunities Fund and the Huelsmann Foundation whose financial support made this new ministry possible.





"Thank you for a wonderful day. It was such a wonderful day. Wonderful. Wonderful! Thank you for loving our kids."

-Fam Jam adult chaperone



# **THANK YOU!**

#### You Make "Encountering Christ" at Dunrovin Possible

On behalf of all who come to Dunrovin in search of the peace and love Christ alone can offer, **thank you**. Your financial support makes it possible for us to welcome all into this space to encounter God's presence and keeps our youth programs viable.

#### 21 New Donors • 104 Sustaining Donors • 1 Matching Challenge 11 In-kind Donations • 3 Foundation Grants



#### **Evening of Gratitude**

On August 15, 2021, friends of Dunrovin gathered for an Evening of Gratitude, in appreciation of our founders, the De La Salle Christian Brothers, and all who have made the mission of Dunrovin Retreat Center possible since 1964. We delighted in the company of 60 of our dearest supporters.





Brothers Michael Rivers, Francis Carr, and Dennis Galvin received the 2021 Brother I Damian Award in recognition of the Brothers' legacy of Christian ministry for underserved youth. Thank you, dear Brothers!





## **BUILDING ON A FIRM FOUNDATION**

Dunrovin Christian Brothers Retreat Center was built in 1964 as a retreat facility for high school boys of the De La Salle Christian Brothers Schools. The first retreat took place on Ash Wednesday, February 12, 1964.

By the 1980s, Dunrovin Retreat Center opened its doors to external groups, inviting other schools, parishes, and nonprofits to rent the facility and experience its Lasallian hospitality.

Today, Dunrovin's dedicated staff continues to offer a Christ-like welcome for the diverse peoples who come from all over. Located on the banks of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, guests come for Dunrovin's beautiful 50-acre wilderness and leave refreshed by God's peace.



While our charism is to welcome all to this beautiful place, the core of Dunrovin's mission is to offer, in the Lasallian tradition, an encounter with Christ and spiritual growth, particularly to financially poor and socially marginalized youth.

#### **Expanding Our Mission's Reach**

Looking ahead, Dunrovin aims to significantly expand the reach of its mission to walk alongside underserved youth and offer them a life-transforming encounter with Christ.

In support of this desired expansion, we added to our leadership team a Director of Development and Marketing and a Director of Guest Services. These roles provide more opportunity for relational ministry as we expand our ability to further engage adult and youth guests with the mission of Dunrovin.



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#### **Board of Directors**

John Agee • Bro. Michael Lee Anderson, FSC, Christian Brothers Midwest District Appointee Jan Byer • Richard (Rick) Hill • Charles (Chip) Hooley, Chairperson • Paul Kiolbasa, Treasurer Bishop James Powers, Diocese of Superior, WI • Fr. Tom Thompson, Diocese of Superior, WI

### Thank you for your investment in Christ's mission. WWW.DUNROVIN.ORG

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Dunrovin is known legally as Christian Brothers Retreat Center and holds a 501(c)(3) federal tax exemption; Tax ID #41-0876905. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.