Dear Friends and Supporters,

Together, we celebrate 20 years of a bold commitment to a more sustainable future through innovative environmental education! Thank you for being a part of Dunes Learning Center’s history and vision for the future.

Looking back on 20 years of exploration and investigation in nature’s classroom, Dunes Learning Center is proud to be at the forefront of environmental education in the Indiana dunes.

Our nature-based, lifelong learning model has evolved over time. Teachers can now choose from a wide range of hands-on science and environmental stewardship options to meet their classroom goals. Students see how their actions impact the world around them and take steps to improve the local environment as they connect textbook lessons with memorable outdoor adventures.

You can learn more about this model inside, including how your support helps ensure students from diverse backgrounds have access to all the steps along the continuum from change in knowledge, to change in attitudes, to change in behaviors.

For the record, nearly 10,000 kids plus another 2,500 teachers, parents, chaperones, and adult learners participated in a Dunes Learning Center program last year. With your generous support, students from low-income communities throughout Northwest Indiana attended residential programs thanks to more than $150,000 in scholarship funds to bridge the gap between a family’s ability to pay and program fees.

As we look toward the future, it is with deep gratitude that we acknowledge your investment in kids and a more sustainable future. Your support ignites our ability to reach even more students with remarkable outdoor learning adventures.

We invite you to join us on campus soon!

Geof Benson
Executive Director

Deb Backus
Board Chair

2018 Board of Directors
Debora Backhus, President
David Wright, Vice President
Zully JF Alvarado, Secretary
Abi Clark, Treasurer
Teresa Massa, Past President
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Ken Schoon, Advisory Board

“This program is so wonderful because it meets more than teacher educational goals. It meets the needs of children—they all feel challenged and then successful. It is so gratifying to see the smiles and pride.”

“ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO INSPIRE LASTING CURiosity AND STEWARDSHIP WITH NATURE SINCE 1998

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“This program is so wonderful because it meets more than teacher educational goals. It meets the needs of children—they all feel challenged and then successful. It is so gratifying to see the smiles and pride.”
DUNES LEARNING CENTER’S LIFELONG LEARNING MODEL
A more sustainable future starts with outdoor adventure.

INTRODUCTORY
Family Learning Programs and Open Houses: Young people get outdoors to explore the world around them.

TEACHER-CENTERED
Nature-Based Science Connected to the Classroom: Students learn about biodiversity and how their actions impact the environment.

YOUTH-CENTERED
Summer Camp: Campers build self-esteem and resilience as they live and explore together in a National Park.

YOUTH-DRIVEN
Internships: Interns develop skills for future employment and a passion for environmental education.

LEADERSHIP
Careers: Adults work to create healthy, vibrant communities.

INTEREST

PLANTING SEEDS FOR THE FUTURE
Open houses celebrate the natural world with guided hikes, live animal encounters, water quality investigations, and more for kids of all ages.

MEMORABLE MOMENTS BRING TEXTBOOK LESSONS TO LIFE
Frog in the Bog is an immersive overnight camp that focuses on team building and personal growth as students explore the natural and cultural history of the dunes.

CAMP CHANGES LIVES IN SO MANY WAYS
Campers meet new people, discover new interests, develop confidence and learn to appreciate differences.

COLLEGE GRADUATES & STUDENTS ARE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE EDUCATION TEAM
Interns receive professional training and development to lead programs and inspire the next generation of environmental stewards.

PROFESSIONALS COMMITTED TO PROTECTING AND CONSERVING LAND, WATER, AND WILDLIFE
Emerging community leaders pursue a wide range of career paths including agriculture, biology, education, geology, wildlife management, and more.

KNOWLEDGE

ATTITUDES

BEHAVIORS

ACTIONS

Education Partner of Indiana Dunes National Park
Green Apple Award winner Jeannette Melcic spoke about the lasting impact of Dunes Learning Center programs on young learners. Jeannette, a teacher from Hammond, said, “Many students who I brought to Dunes Learning Center have never walked in the woods or even seen Lake Michigan.”

“The experiences at Dunes Learning Center engage each student and connect them to nature in a special way that stays with them their whole lives.”
SUMMER CAMP
The 2019 Summer Camp season was sold out! The new Chellberg Farm Day Camp offered a new option for younger children, ages 5-8.

“Camp is an amazing place with no worries.”
“It was the best time of my life.”

NEW BUS
Thanks to multiple grants and partnerships, DLC has a new 72-passenger, propane-powered bus, which is in service transporting students throughout the National Park.

HIGH SPEED INTERNET AND SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY TOOLS
Thanks to a Resilience Project Grant from ArcelorMittal, we now have fiber-optic technology and high-speed internet access throughout the Dunes Learning Center campus. With new iPad microscopes funded by the Porter County Community Foundation, plus a 4K camera and projector, trail groups can share their hiking finds on the big screen.

YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE!
In 2018, Dunes Learning Center celebrated 20 years of providing opportunities for students to connect with nature, regardless of socioeconomic status. Thanks to you, contributions to the need-based scholarship fund exceeded $150,000. You gave more than 2,100 students plus 60 summer campers the extraordinary opportunity to spend the night in a National Park as part of their unforgettable outdoor learning adventure with Dunes Learning Center. These young people are the future. How they learn and develop their attitudes and behaviors will determine how they make decisions throughout their lives. Your support inspires the next generation of environmental stewards.
## 2018 Financials

**Year ended September 30, 2018**

### Operating Revenue and Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and Fees</td>
<td>$414,435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Park Service Operating Funding</td>
<td>$116,941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants (Program/Education Support)</td>
<td>$428,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual/Sponsorship Support</td>
<td>$158,081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Investment Income (Scholarships)</td>
<td>$9,191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,126,838</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Educational Programs

- $880,920

### General and Administrative

- $259,236

### Fundraising

- $93,722

**Total Operating Expenses**: $1,233,878

### Special Projects Income and Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Park Service Special Projects</td>
<td>$245,904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPS Habitat Restoration Partnership</td>
<td>$121,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment Assets, held at Community Foundations</td>
<td>$250,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPS In-Kind (Facilities and Service)</td>
<td>$237,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Special Projects Income and Expenses**: $1,233,878

---

### Dunes Learning Center

**By the Numbers**

- **Total Participants**: 12,479
  - Events: 3,605
  - Students: 7,287
  - Teachers: 309
  - Chaperones: 620
  - Summer Camp: 449
  - Internships: 26
  - Continuing Education: 183

- **Hours Outdoors**: 92,905

- **Meals Served**: 27,951

- **Nights in a National Park**: 8,903

- **Stewardship Hours**: 7,640

- **Acres Restored**: 18

---

**Operating Revenue & Support**

- 38%
  - Grants
- 71%
  - Educational Programs

**Operating Expenses**

- 1%
  - Tuition and Fees
- 10%
  - General & Administrative
- 14%
  - Individual/Sponsorship Support
- 37%
  - National Park Service Operating Funding
- 37%
  - Endowment Investment Income
- 21%
  - Fundraising

---

**Percentage**

- 38%: Grants
- 71%: Educational Programs

---
Thank you to the many generous supporters who contributed to Dunes Learning Center between October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018. Your donations help to fund our outdoor science education programs, and we are tremendously grateful for your support.

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

$10,000+
Susan Eleuterio and Tom Sourlis

$5,000-$9,999
Monica Conrad and Chris Hoham

$2,500-$4,999
Carolyn and Patrick Gorman
Debbie and John Mengel
Susan and Mark Mihalo
Sophia Straton and Rick Novak

$1,000-$2,499
Debora Backhus
Lisa and Vernon Beck
Sam Ellis
Jo Ann Engquist
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Mary Fulghum and GeoL Benson
Elizabeth Greenwald and Tom Boldt
Kay and Craig Nelson
Terry and William Payonk
Joan Solbeck
Maureen Turman and John Bernbom

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Sue and Paul Labovitz
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Claudia McCaill and Peter Canalia
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Gail and Wayne Schimpf
Jill Schlueter-Kim and Art Kim
Julie and Chris Shea
Jill Schlueter-Kim and Art Kim
Gail and Wayne Schimpf
Jill Schlueter-Kim and Art Kim

INTRODUCING THE NEW ANNUAL GIVING SOCIETY

At the end of 2018, we introduced a new way to recognize our leadership donors. Through the giving circles, donors enjoy great benefits, including recognition, updates, and invitations to unique events. Look for these new listings in next year’s annual report. For more information or to join, please contact us at duneslearningcenter.org/giving-society.

Dunes Learning Center is deeply grateful to all of its donors. If your name was inadvertently omitted or incorrectly listed, please accept our apologies, and contact us at 219-395-9555 or friends@duneslearningcenter.org so that we may correct it in the future.
PROGRAM SUPPORT

$100,000+
ArcelorMittal
National Park Service

$25,000-$49,999
Alphawood Foundation Chicago
Flora Richardson Foundation
Foundations of East Chicago
Indiana Department of Natural Resources/
Lake Michigan Coastal Program/National Oceanic
Atmospheric Administration

$10,000-$24,999
BP America Inc.
Friends of Indiana Dunes, Inc.
Indiana Housing and Community Development
Authority
John W. Anderson Foundation
Legacy Foundation
Porter County Community Foundation
US Environmental Protection Agency
US Forest Service

$5,000-$9,999
Cargill
Dr. Scholl Foundation
Duneland School Corporation
Illinois Department of Natural Resources Coastal
Management Program
Lakeshore Public Media
NIPSCO
South Shore Arts/Indiana Arts Commission/
National Endowment for the Arts

$2,500-$4,999
Alliance for the Great Lakes
Herman and Katherine Peters Foundation
National Park Foundation
Patagonia Chicago

Under $2,500
Indiana Dunes Tourism
Ogden Dunes Women’s Club
Portage Zeta Mu - Tri Kappa
Questers
Safety Kleen/Clean Harbors
South Shore Roller Girls
Sunnybrook Education Foundation
Urschel Laboratories
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Mission Giving

MATCHING GIFT COMPANIES
ArcelorMittal
NIPSCO
Vertex Pharmaceuticals

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Platinum
ArcelorMittal
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Silver
Lakeshore Public Media
NIPSCO
Shell Lubricants
Bronze
BP America
Enbridge
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Pratt Industries
Supporter
Cargill
Franklin Pest Solutions
Mark J. Mihalos DDS
Family Dentistry
A Dunes Affair
1st Source Bank
Law Offices of Canalla & Clark

TRIBUTE GIFTS
In Memory of the Bistolfo-Marshall Families
Donna Marshall Attinello
In Memory of Mylinda Perry Cane
Deb Backhus
Richard Cains
Kristina and Donald Campbell
Mary Fulghum and Geoff Benson
Kempler and Molina Families
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Michael Cane Trustee
Linda and Frank Wright
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Judith Gaskell
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Dorothy McLaughlin
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Tracey Stevens
In Memory of Dr. Mark Reshkin
Catherine and Calvin Bellamy
Barbara E. Plamplin
Myrna Newgent
In Honor of Lee Botts’ 90th Birthday
Mylinda and Michael Cane
Mary Ann and Ronald Smith
In Honor of Donna Reseta’s Retirement
Library Colleagues
In Honor of Joan Solbeck
Jean Rudd and Lionel Bolin

IN-KIND DONATIONS
18th Street Distillery
54 Main Bistro
Zully JF Alvarado
Alison Anastasio
American Girl Doll
Art Barn School of Art
Deb Backhus
The Boat Shop
Lisa Beck
Marj and Bob Blackwell
Tom Boldt
Terry Bonace
Tyler Bobbyl
Ruth Brenner
Jim Chaddock
Chellberg Farm
Abir Clark,
The Cliff Dwellers Club
Cultivated Culture
Nick Dernik
Don Quixote Restaurant
East Wind Studios
Jeff Edstrom
Elia’s Bella
Anthony Escobedo
Jaime Golba
Jenny and John Golba
Annette Hansen
Habor Country Adventures
Jayson Hemphill
Laura Hennessey
Historic Pullman Foundation
Chris Hoham
Imagine Music Productions
Ironwood Brewing
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Victoria Jastrzebski
Larry Jensen
Jewel-Osco Chesterton
Kapitan Nursery
Keller Science Action Center at the
Field Museum of Natural History
Paul Labovitz
Lifestyles
Jim Louderman
Lyric Opera of Chicago
Main & Lincoln
Teresa Massa
Anthony Escobedo
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Field Museum of Natural History
Paul Labovitz
Lifestyles
Jim Louderman
Lyric Opera of Chicago
Main & Lincoln
Teresa Massa

EDUCATION PARTNERS
Alliance for the Great Lakes
ArcelorMittal Burns Harbor
ArcelorMittal Global Research
& Development
Boy Scout Troop 929
Boys & Girls Club of NWI
Challenger Learning Center
Chicago Public Schools
City of Gary
City of Hammond
City of Hobart
City of Lake Station
City of Michigan City
City of Portage
Daven Tree Service
Discovery Trackers 4-H Club
The Field Museum
Friends of Indiana Dunes
Gabis Arboretum at Purdue
University Northwest
Great Lakes Research & Education Center
Annette Hansen
Humane Indiana Wildlife
Indiana Audubon Society
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
Indiana Dunes State Park
Indiana Dunes Tourism
Indiana University/Indiana
University Northwest
Northwestern Indiana Urban Waters Partnership
Purdue University/Purdue University Northwest
Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service
Save the Dunes
Eve Senderhauf
Shirley Heine Land Trust
Student Conservation Association
Town of Chesterton
Town of Porter
US Forest Service
US Geological Survey
Virginia Tech & Clemson University
Westville FFA
Wilderness Inquiry
Wildlife Habitat Council
Kyle Wilson
The Wilder Family

IN-KIND DONATIONS
18th Street Distillery
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Nature’s Remedies
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Northwestern Indiana Padding Association
Josh Olson
Zella and Roy Olson
Patagonia Chicago
Bill Payonk
Sand Creek Country Club
Sawyer Home & Garden Center
Joan Solbeck
South Shore Brass Band
Teamsters Local Union #142
Third Coast Spice Cafe
Maureen Turman
Third Coast Spice Cafe
Wilderness Inquiry
Maureen Turman
Wilderness Inquiry
Wildlife Habitat Council
Kyle Wilson
The Wilder Family
“I DIDN’T THINK I COULD KEEP UP AND STILL HIKE BUT I DID. IT MADE ME FEEL PROUD. I LEARNED THAT I CAN DO ANYTHING IF I TRY. I MIGHT STRUGGLE, BUT IF I TRY, I CAN ACHIEVE IT.”