



June 2020

Dear Camp Marist Community Members:

I hope that this letter finds you and your family well. It has been a challenging time for the world community with many people suffering from coronavirus and some sadly succumbing to it. Our Camp Marist Community has not escaped the impact of this global health crisis. Sadly, our discussions and the facts at hand led us to the conclusion that the best way to keep our staff, campers, and families safe was to not open for the 2020 season. The outpouring of support we have received since this difficult announcement has affirmed the decision we made and eased the pain for those of us charged with making that determination. Many from our community have also inquired about ways in which they can help and, given the unprecedented need, I am writing to you today to humbly ask for your support to ensure a financially healthy future for Camp Marist.

A past camper from the 1990s recently drove onto the property to show Camp Marist to his wife. I introduced myself and he recognized me as his prefect when he was ten years old back in what was then Cabin 2. He remembered that I used to play the *Hobbit* or the *Chronicles of Narnia* when the campers went to bed. His face lit up as the memory swept over him and it was as if he became a camper again. These activities we shared, the enjoyment created, and great friendships made while at camp remain with us. And, for many, it's these experiences that keep us coming back summer after summer.

I believe you would agree that camp is a wholesome and life-enriching experience to be enjoyed for years to come. It is in this spirit that we are turning our attention to ensuring we remain on solid financial footing as we move forward toward the summer of 2021 and beyond. As you might expect, closing camp does not eliminate expenses and without our usual tuition income finances will be strained. While we will be relying on our reserve funds to get us through the year, we are asking for your help and ask that you consider making a donation to Camp Marist at this pivotal time. Our leadership team is working hard to minimize costs, but your contribution would help fund scholarships, introduce new programs, and allow us to invest in our facilities and resume critical maintenance projects.

Camp Marist, to my knowledge, has not actively solicited funds from our community during the 36 years in which I have been associated. These are extreme times asking for extreme responses. Please consider making a contribution according to your ability to do so. Donations whether small or large would demonstrate in a decisive manner your love of Camp Marist and willingness to help us continue our mission serving campers.

I know that if we all join together in this effort, Camp Marist will continue to offer a value-centered experience that not only provides campers with a lot of fun and friendships, but also helps shape them into the adults they will become. Your generosity will help make that happen! If you'd like to be in touch or discuss additional ways you can help, please e-mail me at [vinny@campmarist.org](mailto:vinny@campmarist.org) or call (603) 539-4552.

With our prayers, best wishes, and hopes that we see you soon. Most appreciatively,

  
Vinny Gschlecht  
Executive Director

P.S. – consider making your gift online by visiting [www.campmarist.org/support](http://www.campmarist.org/support) or by completing the enclosed form and returning along with a check made out to *Camp Marist*. Thank you in advance!