



Report to Presbytery May 3, 2025

For over 65 years, Calvin Crest has partnered with individuals, churches, presbyteries and synods to provide life-changing ministry to children, youth and adults. From those early work camps to develop the site from a working farm to a fully functioning youth camp to the height of the Christian Camping movement in the 1970's and 1980's and through the changes in demographics, culture, parent attitudes, safety and information that we have experienced in the past 25 years, Calvin Crest remains committed to providing small-group Christian based experiences for children and youth that helps to connect participants to God, to others, to themselves and to nature. The methods change, but the mission remains the same.

And now, as Calvin Crest enters another new phase, we remain committed to providing these experiences to an ever-widening circle—to be a place where people find connection, purpose and God.

The Presbytery of Missouri River Valley and the churches and individuals in it are strong partners in this purpose. Kids need the space, the nature, the connections, the experiences and the faith formation that happens at Calvin Crest as a part of their overall development that happens in their families, communities and churches. Kids need access and exposure to the green space and “wildness” that Calvin Crest offers. This helps them reset themselves and grounds them for the struggles they face.

Together, we can provide an oasis for our kids. A place where they can breathe and a place where they can rest. Our kids need this more than ever. If you have kids in your church, family or sphere of influence, they likely need the Calvin Crest experience. There is still space in many of our camps and I would encourage you to encourage them to check it out at www.calvincrest.camp.

Included in this report is a printer-friendly Annual Report for 2024. If you would like to view the full-color picture heavy version, you can check it out at www.calvincrest.org/annual-report.

Please reach out to me if you have questions or would like to schedule a tour with a prospective family.

Blessings on your continued ministry!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Craig Huffman'.

Craig Huffman
Executive Director

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

CALVIN CREST CAMP, CONFERENCE
AND RETREAT CENTER



A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Calvin Crest experience is one that is cherished by many of all ages. The opportunity to spend time in nature, away from the distractions of everyday life and focusing on the things that are important-- family, faith, fellowship and yes, even fun.

The moments that people spend during a week of camp, on a hike through the woods, or during a weekend retreat can be life changing in so many ways.

Support from churches, organizations, presbyteries, foundations, businesses and individuals all come together to allow these moments to occur -month after month and year after year since 1958.

With more people experiencing busy and disconnected lives, Calvin Crest's retreats provide space and time to slow down and connect with others.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Craig Huffman'.

CRAIG HUFFMAN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Summer Camp

Summer Camp provides the opportunity for children and youth to be engaged in life-affirming Christian Education, mentored by near-peers and surrounded by the beauty of this special place.

Our capacity is limited by available, qualified and willing staff since we maintain excellent camper to staff ratios as outlined by the American Camp Association accreditation standards and stringent child protection policies.

In 2024, we had 144 campers and mentored those campers with paid staff and volunteers.

Guest Groups

Each year, thousands of people attend events, retreats, conferences, meetings and family reunions at Calvin Crest. We are delighted to provide meeting space, food, lodging and Christian hospitality to our guest groups throughout the year. Guest groups from a variety of denominations, organizations and geographic locations attend events at Calvin Crest each month of the year. It is a joy to serve them and help them accomplish their goals for their event.

Work Groups and Volunteers

Each year brings significant improvements to the facilities and grounds. Trail improvements were necessary due to the significant rain event we experienced in May, which washed out a large section of the trail.

New windows and doors were installed in the Upper Area Lodge with a grant from the Nebraska Presbyterian Foundation.

New larger tables were purchased for the West Dining Hall.

New paint and deep cleaning also periodically occurs.



PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Continual improvement is essential to meeting the changing needs of guests and campers.

In 2025, summer camp “Majors” will be introduced for one week. During that week of camp, campers will choose one of three “Majors” to focus on during the week. In addition, some shifting of grade levels in certain camps will attempt to line up better with school age categories.

We continue to seek to increase the numbers of campers and guests to increase sustainability.

Long term plans include increasing capacity for larger groups through renovation of existing space, building new space and exploring other options for facilities.

The need for places like Calvin Crest continues and the challenge for the Board of Directors is to articulate that need to groups and individuals who are receptive and see that need for themselves.

FINANCIALS

Calvin Crest is supported through user fees from Rental Groups, Hosted Events and Summer Camp as well as monetary donations from Presbyteries, churches, organizations, foundations, businesses and individuals.

Donations for specific projects are carefully tracked and used for those designated purposes. General donations are normally used for maintenance, upkeep and salaries to support the ongoing work of Calvin Crest.

The Board of Directors maintains tight financials controls to ensure proper cash flow and use of funds with the Calvin Crest staff working hard to steward those resources well.

The ongoing financial health of Calvin Crest depends on the groups that use this place and the donors who value the experience that Calvin Crest provides for themselves and for others. Without both groups, Calvin Crest becomes unsustainable.

There are many ways to be involved in the ongoing success of Calvin Crest.

- Bring your group, family or church to an event at Calvin Crest or host your own.
- Make a one-time or regularly occurring gift to support the ministry.
- Make provisions in your estate for Calvin Crest.

If you have questions regarding how you can be involved, please reach out.

212

Number of donors in 2024 representing presbyteries, organizations, foundations, businesses and individuals.

250

Number of acres that Calvin Crest encompasses. The title to the property was donated to Calvin Crest by Homestead Presbytery as part of the Property Transfer Process that was finalized in early 2024.

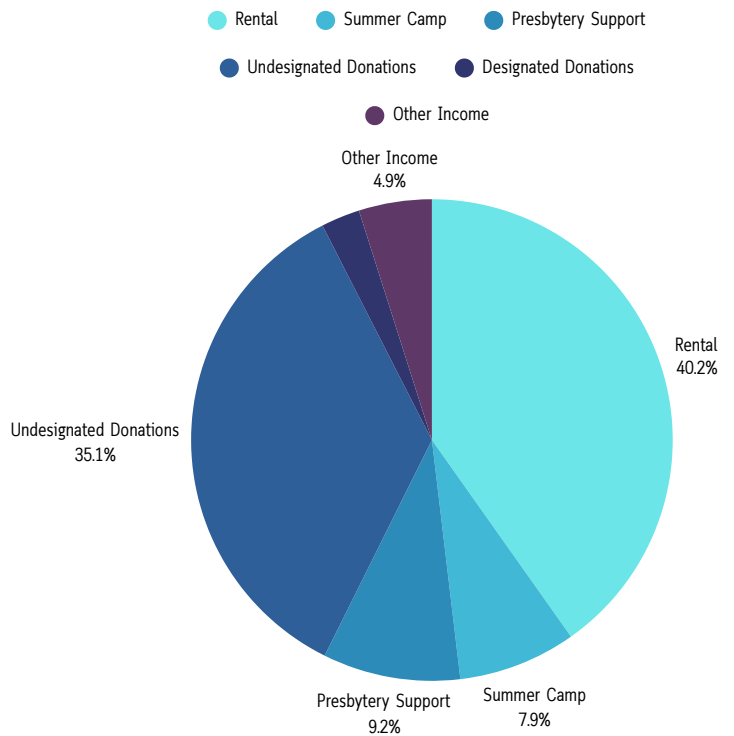
6746

Number of Guest Days in 2024. This does not count the number of guest days that occur during the busy summer camp season.

97

Number of groups that used Calvin Crest for their event in 2024. This does not count the summer camp opportunities that Calvin Crest hosted.

INCOME-\$649,788



EXPENSES-\$722,813

