



Merrill Area United Way, Inc.

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June 2022 -- Foto News Article
Merrill Area United Way
Dee Olsen, Executive Director

Summer is always fun in Merrill with lots of things to do through the MARC Center, the Aquatic Center, the TB Scott Free Library children's programs, sometimes the schools, the concerts at Normal Park, the Lincoln County Fair and much, much more.

The United Way organization is adding one additional summer event, a fund raiser, for our exciting 75th anniversary year. MAUW has secured an exceptionally talented singer/performer out of South Padre Island, LESLIE BLASING. She has an incredible following in the Texas area, and many Wisconsin and Midwest "snowbird" followers. She will put on a show you will remember, and dancing will certainly be available for all those who care to dance. In addition to Blasing, we have secured Bryce Thomaschefskey, an area favorite, to open the stage for her. The event will be at the Northwoods Veteran's Post on Sunday, AUGUST 7, 2022. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. Thomaschefskey will perform from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. and LESLIE BLASING will perform from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Advance ticket sales will be handled on Eventbrite website at \$10.00 in advance and, ***then if available***, \$15 at the door. We can handle 400 people and expect a sell-out crowd. Leslie Blasing's followers will come from anywhere within a 4-hour radius or do any overnight stay. Foods and beverage will be available.

In addition, United Way will have a float in the Labor Day Parade this year. Then the next celebratory event will be the fun-filled, family-oriented, "United Way Day on October 15th at the AGRA Pavilion. United Way partner agencies will be asked to have displays and they may even have donation drives. There will be a fun walk, and walkers will be joined by John Kilgust on his unicycle. He might even juggle a little. Kilgust will do a short performance for children, plus there will be other entertainment for the children like, face painting, storytelling, sing-a-longs, and a puppet show. Concession stands, cookies and beverages will be available. Watch for further details.

We know Merrill has incredible people, doing remarkable things, and helping people every day in hundreds and hundreds of ways. So, we have identified "75 Ways to Live United". We encourage you to catch yourself, and others, being great citizens, volunteering, helping people as you Live United, but then post the photos of how Merrill people collectively "live united."

While we are putting time into our 75th Anniversary celebration, we cannot forget about our core work of running a fall campaign, servicing people and our funded agencies. That work is strongly continuing in our everyday work. We have met compliance with United Way Worldwide and are currently amid our annual Certified CPA audit. The Board is actively making their summer Agency Visits and the mid-year reports are out and due before the end of July. These efforts are followed by the Agency Application process for funding in 2023.

As we move forward, your support of the Merrill Area United Way makes a difference in our local community. Want to donate? Donations stay local and are always appreciated. Send your check to Merrill Area United Way, P O Box 813, Merrill, WI 54452. For more information about Merrill Area United Way visit our website at merrillareaunitedway.org or email Delores.Olsen@merrillareaunitedway.org.