



MERRILL AREA UNITED WAY, INC.

Merrill Area United Way, Inc.

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Merrill Area United Way

Dee Olsen, Executive Director

It's mid-May as we turn the corner with the excitement of summer and all the fun times and activities ahead. We are so fortunate to have a group of ladies that help prepare meals for children during the summer. They do this on weekdays and are set up at Christ United Methodist Church, 300 North Mill Street in Merrill. They rely on donations to operate. If you would like to give to this effort, stop by and drop off a check.

August 8th is United Way's "Concert for a Cause" featuring the amazing, wonderful, talented Leslie Blasing from South Padre Island, TX. Blasing performed for United Way during our 75th anniversary and those attending fell in love with her show. We are fortunate to bring her back. We were introduced to Blasing because several Merrill and surrounding Central Wisconsin "snowbirds" follow her when they are south for the winter. Blasing has a solid reputation and following as she has opened for Toby Keith and other popular names. Blasing has also received many accolades when named Best Performer in Texas. Seriously, mark your calendar for August 8th. You won't want to miss this show (you can dance too). It will be held at VFW Post 1638 in Merrill. The Planning Committee is working on aspects of this event, so watch for further details and information on ticket outlets,

United Way Board members will be making their one-on-one visits with our funded agencies in the next month or two. This is the ideal time to have an exchange with our Agencies. We recognize that our affiliates are faced with challenges while serving the public. This open communication gives United Way a better understanding of their operations, issues, and challenges so that we might better serve them. Our partner agencies report these visits are both important and helpful. We are grateful our Board members are committed to engaging in these visits.

During the summer months our affiliate agencies are required to provide us with a mid-year report. These reports help us evaluate whether the agency is reaching their goals (identified in the initial annual application request). It gives an overview of how the dollars are applied toward impactful work on our focus areas of basic needs, education, and health. It identifies how many people are being served by that agency. The mid-year reports area at benchmark for our fiduciary oversight to ensure united way dollars work to improve our community.

Remember United Way is here to help people and improve the community through its work. September is our funding campaign, and we hope to count on you to help meet the needs of others. You make the difference when you support the Merrill Area United Way. Although the campaign is in September and October, we accept donations anytime. If you want to donate, please send your check to Merrill Area United Way, P O Box 813, Merrill, WI 54452. Donations stay local. For more information about Merrill Area United Way visit our website at merrillareaunitedway.org or email Delores.Olsen@merrillareaunitedway.org.