

**Merrill Area United Way, Inc.**

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Foto News Article

August, 2021

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Dee Olsen, Executive Director

With the County Fair behind us and Labor Day around the corner, United Way will soon embark on its annual campaign to raise money in support of the 19 affiliate agencies we help fund. To support these important agencies and services we will need a successful campaign to help in many areas. While things are slowly resembling normal, one thing didn't change. It seems the Merrill Area agencies that help people regularly have seen increased needs as the agencies are strapped trying to meet the high demand for services.

The United Way campaign runs through mid-November. This financial support comes from individuals, families, retirees, and companies who have management support to internalize a campaign, which is always appreciated. Once the campaign wraps up, and donations are tallied, the United Way Board of Directors determines the level at which we can help each funded agency. As always, we hope to sustain or possibly surpass last year's level of giving.

We can only "make a difference" with local support coming from the campaign. Giving, advocating, and volunteering are critical in making a difference. As such the annual campaign "IS IT". *We need your support* to help fund programs in our three impact areas. The basic needs/income area includes getting a job, shelter, heat-electric-water utilities, food, clothing, transportation to get to a job, childcare so a parent can work, and much more. Health services, dental health, mental health, and AODA counseling are areas we support. Education includes youth development, general education, childcare, and youth leadership development, as well as not using drugs, alcoholic, tobacco, or vaping.

Watch your mailbox in mid-September for the Merrill Area United Way flyer and invitation to donate to United Way. We only ask once a year for your donation. It is our annual appeal to the entire public with our direct mail piece to almost every household in the county. We realize there are so many requests through the mail, so United Way hopes you watch for ours. Our United Way Board of Directors and the Lincoln County Courthouse is pictured on this four-color flyer. When you receive your mailer, return with your contribution. Please give generously and help your neighbors, family, and friends. If this isn't a time you can give, remember United Way accepts donations year-round. ***All donated dollars remain local unless you designate dollars elsewhere.***

United Way cares and is driven to make a positive difference in the Merrill area. To donate send checks to Merrill Area United Way, at P. O. Box 813, Merrill 54452. Our website is [www.merrillareaunitedway.org](http://www.merrillareaunitedway.org) where Pay Pal donations can now be made. For further information email us at [Delores.Olsen@merrillareaunitedway.org](mailto:Delores.Olsen@merrillareaunitedway.org) ; or call our part-time office at 715-536-2016.