

Merrill Area United Way, Inc.
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Merrill Area United Way
Dee Olsen, Executive Director

United Way would be remiss, if we did not reflect and express acknowledgement and appreciation for the enormous amount of giving done during this recent holiday season by the Merrill community. Anyone watching the local news scene would note the several gifts to the Merrill Food Pantry, Saint Vincent DePaul, United Way, the MAC Home, the Children's Christmas Project and so many more. All giving seems to be up and we cannot help but wonder how the pandemic may have influenced the increased levels of giving. Is it because some people have unspent funds due to working from home; is it because the needs have been more clearly defined; is it because people see the needs created by the pandemic for families who have lost employment, or not received unemployment, or had costs related to having COVID-19? Whatever the reasons, we as a community can be proud of what has happened here in Merrill. It is with great hope that we wish for the Christmas spirit to live on throughout the year.

In November, the MAUW Board sets up three teams to evaluate the 2021 Allocation requests made by agencies seeking United Way funding for the forthcoming year. The agencies are channeled into one of the 3 impact areas – Health, Education, and Income/Basic Needs. With a very successful annual campaign for the 2021 year, the task became easier as United Way was able to meet the requests of each agency and additionally giving them an additional increase over their request. This year 19 requests came in from agencies. Of course, the agencies were excited to hear their allocations will be increased and help them with their programs. The Agencies supported through the Merrill Area United Way do very important, and in some cases critical work in helping people in many different areas. The United Way Board is comprised of local people and company representatives that care deeply about the mission of United Way, and the service that gets provided to the community. We will continue to ensure incredible service.

The MAUW will be holding the Annual Meeting on February 8, 2021, Location to be announced. The location will allow for social distancing. This meeting is held immediately following the MAUW Board of Directors meeting at 5:00 p.m. The annual Meeting is expected to begin at 5:15 p.m. It is open to the public. Face masks are required. For further details about the meeting contact the MAUW at 715-536-2016. Additional information about the Merrill Area United Way, as well as the Annual Report (available after February 9th) is available on our website at merrillareaunitedway.org; or contact us at P. O. Box 813, Merrill; call our part-time office at 715-536-2016; or email Delores.Olsen@merrillareaunitedway.org.