

Merrill Area United Way

United Way



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On behalf of the United Way Board of Directors and myself, we want to thank Merrill residents for seriously taking the necessary precautions with the COVID-19 "Stay in Place order". This has been a difficult time for many residents and families. Many of our local agencies are still here to serve for essential needs. For example, people and families can contact the Community Food Pantry by calling 715-536-4505 or 715-539-2666. Food Pantry workers will coordinate putting together the items on your shopping list. They will also schedule your pick-up time and bring the food out to your vehicles. Homeless facilities like Our Sister's House in Tomahawk and the MAC Home in Merrill have taken on a bigger role by keeping their facilities open to the homeless population throughout the day – thus, they are open around the clock to their clients. Extra measures for testing temps and maintaining a clean safe environment are in place during the "Safer at Home" order.

Other organizations are servicing their programs and clients in a virtual world, offering online programs, demonstrations, meetings, and direct client outreach. A few other are dealing with clients directly on the phone. Parkside Preschool remains open and servicing families where parents are in essential jobs. Mental Health Counseling is continuing via phone appointments. Girl Scout and Boy Scouts have their member engaged and doing badge programs, etc. The Family Resource Center is doing outreach to families through social media with programs like: Play and Learns; Wiggle Giggle and Shake; Fun in the Kitchen – even offered on weekends. They are also working on new programs like a book club for Teens and Tweens and a Home-Schooling Support Club for parents.

Some of the 20 United Way agencies have had to curtail the level of services or eliminate some aspects depending on the need of face-to-face contact. Overall, our agencies are doing their very best in complying with COVID-19 orders, while finding creative ways to continue servicing people. Children continue to receive meals through the programs of the Merrill Area Public Schools; the food pantries; the Downtown Church program and Food For Kids.

United Way has always financially supported the 2-1-1 call center to aid Lincoln County residents in accessing any and every type of information and support they need. The 2-1-1 call center is certainly deemed essential during a pandemic and have a full crew available to answer any of your questions.

We recognize that many requests for donations, memberships and contributions are being sent to people. Some may find the federal stimulus checks as spare money and be compelled to give back. In this time of wanting to do something positive, think of your local community first. Our United Way has decided to use available earmarked funds first for any dire COVID-19 needs. However, donations are accepted year-round and can be mailed to P.O. Box 813, Merrill, WI 54452. Hopefully, when we come through this pandemic our County residents will be there to support our local Merrill Area United Way at a high level when we go into our fall campaign September through November. As always, we remain committed to our Motto 'LIVE UNITED' and we will continue to help those in need.

For more information about the Merrill Area United Way visit our website at merrillareauitedway.org or email: united813@frontier.com.