

Merrill Area United Way

United
Way



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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. One such agency, the Merrill Food Pantry is one of three pantries in the community. The Merrill Community Food Pantry is the one supported by United Way as it is a stand-alone 501-c3 operation. There are 2 additional pantries operated by churches, Trinity Lutheran and New Testament Church. The Merrill Community Food Pantry mission is to provide supplemental or emergency food for those in need without discrimination. The community donors have been very giving with 141,300 pounds of food over the last 12 months. They operate also because of about 75 volunteers. The Pantry relies on both monetary and food donations to help feed the 7,000 served yearly. We recognize in the fight against hunger, being well nourished creates a sense of well-being for individuals and families, enabling them to be focused and be an asset in the community.

Merrill Area United Way hosted the Central Wisconsin United Way Directors quarterly meeting on December 18, 2019 with a meeting at Ballyhoo's, followed by a tour. For the past 2 years they have heard Dee Olsen talk about the development of the homeless center that Merrill had been working on. Now that it is operational, they were given a special tour of the facility and were very impressed with both the facility and how the operations are handled. The group

typically meets in a central location in Wausau. There coming to Merrill was a reflection on a very prominent Merrill community project. Understanding the difficulty in getting such projects funded, completed and operational left them with a great impression of Merrill. There were a considerable amount of supplies, clothes and personal care items that were donated through the month of December, totaling an estimated \$4,000. Additionally, Special Thanks to Breaman Ford for running the donation match program for MAC Home during December. In total the match program generated just over \$41,000. Breaman Ford gave \$15,000 and Connexus Credit Union ensured the success of the match with a \$15,000 donation from their company too.

Thanks again! These projects, and those programs of the additional 18 funded agencies, would not be possible without the continued support of our community!

The Merrill Area United Way will be holding its Annual Meeting on February 3, 2020 in the conference room at the AmericInn, 3300 East Main Street, Merrill following its Board of Directors meeting. The annual Meeting is expected to begin at 5:20 p.m. The public is welcome to attend. For more information about the Merrill Area United Way visit our website at merrillareaunderway.org; contact us at P. O. Box 813, Merrill; call our part-time office at 715-536-2016; or email united813@frontier.com.