

Merrill Foto News Article
April 2019

April 7 – 13th was National Volunteer Week. Volunteers play a large role in making things happen on the frontlines in the Merrill community. They are often the ones working shoulder to shoulder with those in need. They offer their time and money and are happy to do so. The benefits of volunteerism are great and include: 1. Adding economic value to the organizations they serve for hours worked. 2. Enhancing social connectedness between other volunteers, agencies, individuals, companies, schools and government. 3. Volunteers also develop additional skills and self-esteem resulting in personal growth. This April, as volunteers are recognized, ask yourself “What can I do to volunteer and help in the Merrill community?”

Behind every organization are the people who run it. The direction an organization takes, is driven by its governing body, usually a Board of Directors. Having a strong Mission and Vision are fundamental to the organization success. The Merrill Area United Way has an established Annual Planning and Goal Setting session in spring for an annual overview of our directions, reviewing each year’s activities and our ongoing positive impact on the community through the support of our funded agencies and the programs they implement. Our Board Planning/Goal Setting session is being held on Wednesday, April 17th and is being facilitated by Melinda Osterberg, UW Extension Office.

As we look at our future directions we recognize the value of United Way to our partnerships with our local agencies, working to meet the ever increasing needs of the community on so many fronts. The United Way Board of Directors is aware of the agencies increasing needs and they continue to address improvements so we can better serve. We are fortunate to have a dedicated Board of 21 community members willing to be involved. Besides driving our goals Board members will make one-on-one calls to the agency leaders this spring/early summer. These meetings garner a stronger relationship and a deeper understanding of agency programs and what the agencies face. The Board gets a stronger sense of how United Way dollars are applied to impact the lives of their clients. Most important to the Board is that the dollars stay in Merrill to help our local people.

To support the Merrill Area United Way and make a difference in our local community then please mail a donation to MAUW, PO Box 813, Merrill, WI 54452. For more information about MAUW visit our website at merrillareunitedway.org.