

Merrill Foto News

June, 2015

The primary interest of the Merrill Area United Way is serving the local community and the people who live in the Merrill area. United Way raises and disperses funds with the support of the people who work in the community. Our alignment with United Way Worldwide and the Wisconsin United Way lends support to our local focus and aids us in getting local support. Less than one percent of our annual budget is spent on membership dues to our two parent organizations. In return our local United Way receives many benefits, including the ability to tie to a world renowned name, organization development, structure, a collaborative purpose and direction, collaborative marketing and marketing tools, name identity, an identifiable logo, promotional materials, staff development, training and much more.

To continue our affiliation, United Way Worldwide holds us fully accountable to a higher standard. An annual audit of our accounting and periodic accountability reports are required. Merrill Area United Way definitely gains great benefit from the affiliation. The local United Board of Directors ensures that the requirements and accountability are met each and every year. They also oversee the budget and all spending decisions to make certain all dollars spent support United Way's local plans, programs, and affiliated agencies to help local people.

Outside the traditional fall campaign, once a year a fund raising event is held with the support of Riverside Athletic Club. It was Run United, but this year changed to the Community Kolor Run and Walk. Paul Kienitz, Becci Shuman and the athletic club team can be very proud of coordinating an incredible, fun event for the 886 participants. After expenses they donated \$8,000 to the Merrill Area United Way. Merrill is very fortunate to have Paul Kienitz believing in supporting the local needs through United Way. As he states it, "This is my charity of choice and by giving to United Way, I help hundreds of local people through the 18 funded agencies.

This fall United Way will seek applications for 2016 funding to programs that provide human impact in the key areas of health, education and income (meeting basic needs). With the assistance of Art Lersch, Community Resource Development Education, Lincoln County University of Wisconsin Extension, we are holding an Impact Training Evaluation Workshop. It is designed for agencies that receive United Way funding. The learning objectives of this workshop is to better understand what to evaluate and how to evaluate. The Impact Training and Evaluation Workshops will be held at the Lincoln County building at 801 N. Sales Street, Merrill on **Wednesday, July 8 at 3:30 p.m.** in room 156 and repeated on **Monday, July 13 at 8:00 a.m.** in the Lincoln County Board Room. For further information on the workshops contact United Way. Remember that as you enjoy summer, think about ways you can give advocate and volunteer to make the Merrill Area a better place to live. For further information on United Way visit our website at [merrillareunitedway.org](http://merrillareunitedway.org).