

Merrill Foto News Article

April, 2018

Compelling stories that tug at the heart strings are within every agency United Way funds. Without childcare, a mom is likely to lose her job, so we help underwrite qualifying lower income level day care at Parkside Preschool. Big Brothers Big Sisters helps to provide matches for children who need a mentor, an adult role model, guidance in their lives and to bring activity and fruitful development to that child. At the Menard Center we watch one of the co-managers help carry and load a few boxes of food for a disabled or elderly person whose income is insufficient to pay the bills besides putting food on the table. We've been with an agency representative as a client breaks down because they have no place to live and or no means of transportation, sometimes for medical appointments. These are real life stories that drive home the importance of United Way to our families and friends that are struggling one-day at a time.

At the core of everything is United Way, in partnership 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 well aware of these increasing needs and they continue to address improvements so we can better serve. Recently, they had a Planning and Goal Setting Meeting. The outcomes were strong directions for the United Way organization. We are fortunate to have a dedicated Board of 21 members willing to be involved. In late spring, early summer the Board members will make one-on-one calls to the agency leaders to discuss their programs, gather a deeper understanding of what the agencies face, and get 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 the Merrill area to help our local people.

Let it be made clear that the Merrill Area United Way and the Merrill Community Homeless Center, Inc. are now two very separate organizations. In fact, the Merrill Community Homeless Center, Inc. is now a funded agency. Because the former warming center was operated by United Way, and the now Homeless Center, Habitat Home, was a project driven by the United Way, the new Habitat Home is an entity of itself, run by its separate Board of Directors. United Way is pleased and proud of the work done by so many to establish the Merrill Community Homeless Center, Inc.

Remember the United Way is working to improve the lives of people in the Merrill area. For more information about the Merrill Area United Way, contact us at P. O. Box 813, Merrill, call 715-536-2016 or email united813@frontier.com .