



MERRICK

Community Services

Growing. Stronger. Together.

2023-2024

Impact Report



Our New Mission

Merrick Community Services champions thriving communities by eliminating barriers and providing essential resources to promote stability, independence, social and economic justice.

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Daniel A. Rodriguez,
Executive Director, Merrick
Community Services Ex Officio

Letter from our Director

It's been a busy, good year for Merrick

From program and Staff expansion to a new and deeper relationship with the City of Saint Paul, 2023-24 has been a year of significant growth, which has been reflected in our budget, staff size, and community impact. Overall, it has been a busy and good year for the organization.

And, I haven't even mentioned the work on our new 3-Year Strategic Plan (2024-2027) that also includes our new Mission:

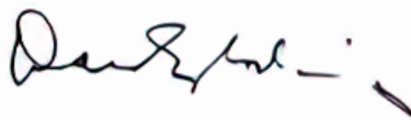
Merrick Community Services champions thriving communities by eliminating barriers and providing essential resources to promote stability, independence, social and economic justice.

This new Mission more accurately and succinctly reflects who we are, why we exist, and what we hope to achieve that we are actively working toward.

There has been a lot of heavy lifting this past year to make it all possible. I want to acknowledge the ongoing support and leadership of our Board of Directors and the incredible work of our remarkable Staff. And, of course, we also appreciate the generosity of our funders, donors, volunteers, community partners, and other supporters that provide the necessary resources to do the important work we do on the East Side of Saint Paul and beyond.

The resources from our supporters allow us to confront expanding community needs, such as homelessness, food insecurity/hunger, unemployment/under-employment, meals for homebound seniors and others, and a host of other emergencies, crises, and trauma Merrick addresses daily. I hope you find this Annual Community Impact Report helpful in understanding how your support makes a BIG difference.

In gratitude and appreciation,



Daniel A. Rodriguez
Executive Director



MERRICK
Community Services

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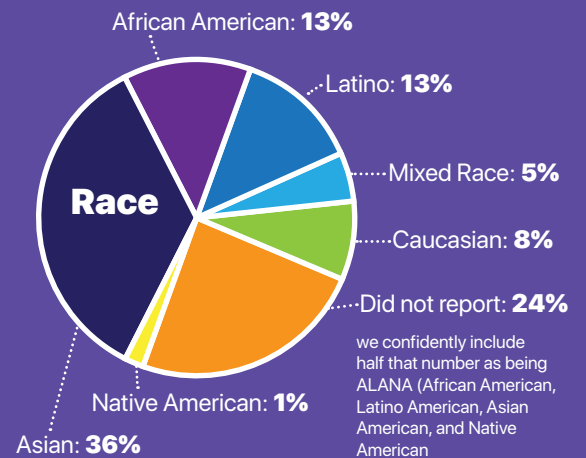
Serving our Diverse Community

A critical component of our work is that our participants can observe and relate to the staff that is serving them. Our staff mirror the people we serve in gender balance and largely in race and ethnicity (72% of MCS staff identify as ALANA). We are a ALANA-led organization, and we are pleased to have Native American, African and African American men and women, native Hmong, Somali and Spanish speakers, and individuals who are from or live on the East Side. Staff understand the unique challenges, barriers, and opportunities related to underserved communities from their own lived experience with upwards of 75% having similar lived experience. This helps to position MCS to deconstruct systems of inequity and to disrupt racial inequities.

This past year we were able to engage more support for the work and well-being of the over 15,000 people we served:

MCS Served more people than ever in 2023/2024!

Demographics of those we serve:



142

Adults and youth received Employment and Career Services

404

Volunteers contributed over 15,000 hours throughout our programs and special events

2,979

Youth served through seasonal programming

15,300

Individuals served through our Food Shelf

1,350

Individuals and

540

Families served through Family Services

190

Households received Meals on Wheels

27,206

Nutritious hot meals served to seniors in Ramsey and Washington County

The Stories Behind the Numbers

It takes a team

Kris

A recent MCS participant working on housing stability, Ramsey County systems navigation, and mental health supports with MCS Family & Community Services staff shared that she had received a 14-day notice to evict her apartment due to lapsed rent payments. At the same time, she had received notice from Ramsey County that her son's SSI (Social Security Income) monthly payment was about to cease due to the county not having a record of her son's income verification on file. In a matter of moments, this participant was at risk of losing both her housing and a steady stream of income—necessary for covering basic needs. With the teamwork of MCS staff and the participant, she was approved for the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP) through Ramsey County and was able to submit the required income verification for her son's SSI case. These actions covered the past rent due and ensured that this participant would be able to remain in her home. Likewise, she will be able to continue to provide essential basic needs for her family because of the SSI payment being reinstated. Truly, our circumstances can quickly change and have devastating effects. Merrick's work is critical in mitigating these effects and in being able to maintain long-term security and well-being.

The impact of life-changing circumstances

Ms. Vang

Ms. Vang came to MCS after a life-changing event. Her sixth child was born with Down Syndrome and a heart condition. Knowing little about these health conditions and having to shift her time from employment to care of her baby (still in the NICU and needing heart surgery), Ms. Vang could no longer pay for housing. MCS Family & Community Services staff worked with Ms. Vang, enrolling her in both Ramsey County's Parent Support Outreach Program (PSOP) and the Suburban Ramsey Family Collaborative (SRFC). The goal of these programs is to strengthen the family unit, attend to the family's well-being, expand support systems, and provide needed referrals. Due to the complexity of her baby's health conditions, MCS staff accompanied her to a number of the baby's doctor appointments to assist with gaining better understanding of these conditions. In the meantime, Ms. Vang and her other five children moved in with her mom and she is working with MCS Staff to achieve more permanent housing stabilization.

Ms. Vang (left) and MCS Staff Member Pa Dao Lor (right), Hmong Community Resource Navigator

Merrick's New Mission

Merrick Community Services champions thriving communities by eliminating barriers and providing essential resources to promote stability, independence, social and economic justice.

Merrick's Vision

Families and individuals access support and find opportunities, overcome challenges and contribute to create an East Side community which is celebrated as vibrant, healthy and welcoming.

Merrick's Values

- **Individuality, Diversity & Dignity:** We meet people where they are at; honor each person's unique culture, needs, and abilities; and work with them to recognize their strengths and utilize their power to create change.
- **Integrity:** We act with sincerity and transparency within the community and within our organization.
- **Partnership:** We partner with community volunteers, organizations, and institutions to increase community engagement and impact.
- **Stewardship:** We utilize, maximize and leverage resources in a responsible manner.
- **Responsive:** We listen to the community, and adapt our organization's talents, skills, and resources to identified needs.

Food entrepreneur seizes opportunity to Learn & Earn

At the MCS Employment Services Learn & Earn graduation, Food Entrepreneurship participant Isa A.H. won the "Anything is possible" award. That is a motto he lives by. After working a variety of jobs, going into the military, and getting his Business Administration degree, Isa found himself at a crossroads after leaving a full-time security job that didn't work out. He often went to Lake Phalen to de-stress and think about what is next for him. While there one day, he ran into Marcel Thompson, a Merrick employee, who mentioned the Learn & Earn program and that we were recruiting participants. After connecting with Alison Hruby, Learn & Earn Case Manager at MCS, Isa knew this was an opportunity he couldn't pass up.

During the 6-week program, Isa learned about the ins and outs of Food Entrepreneurship including backend financial operations, receiving advice from local General Managers, and learning how to create and execute a business plan – all while being paid. Isa noted how this is a one-of-a-kind opportunity, and he wouldn't be where he is now, both mentally and professionally, without the support of Merrick program staff and his fellow cohort participants. As for what's next, Isa is determining how best to utilize everything he has learned in this program. For others who may be interested, Isa says, "If anybody's thinking about it, don't be afraid to make that investment in yourself. There's nothing to lose from programs like Merrick's." He knows he is an entrepreneur, and for the first time in a while, can see a vision of what his future holds all while keeping in mind – anything is possible.



Meals on Wheels is more than just food delivery

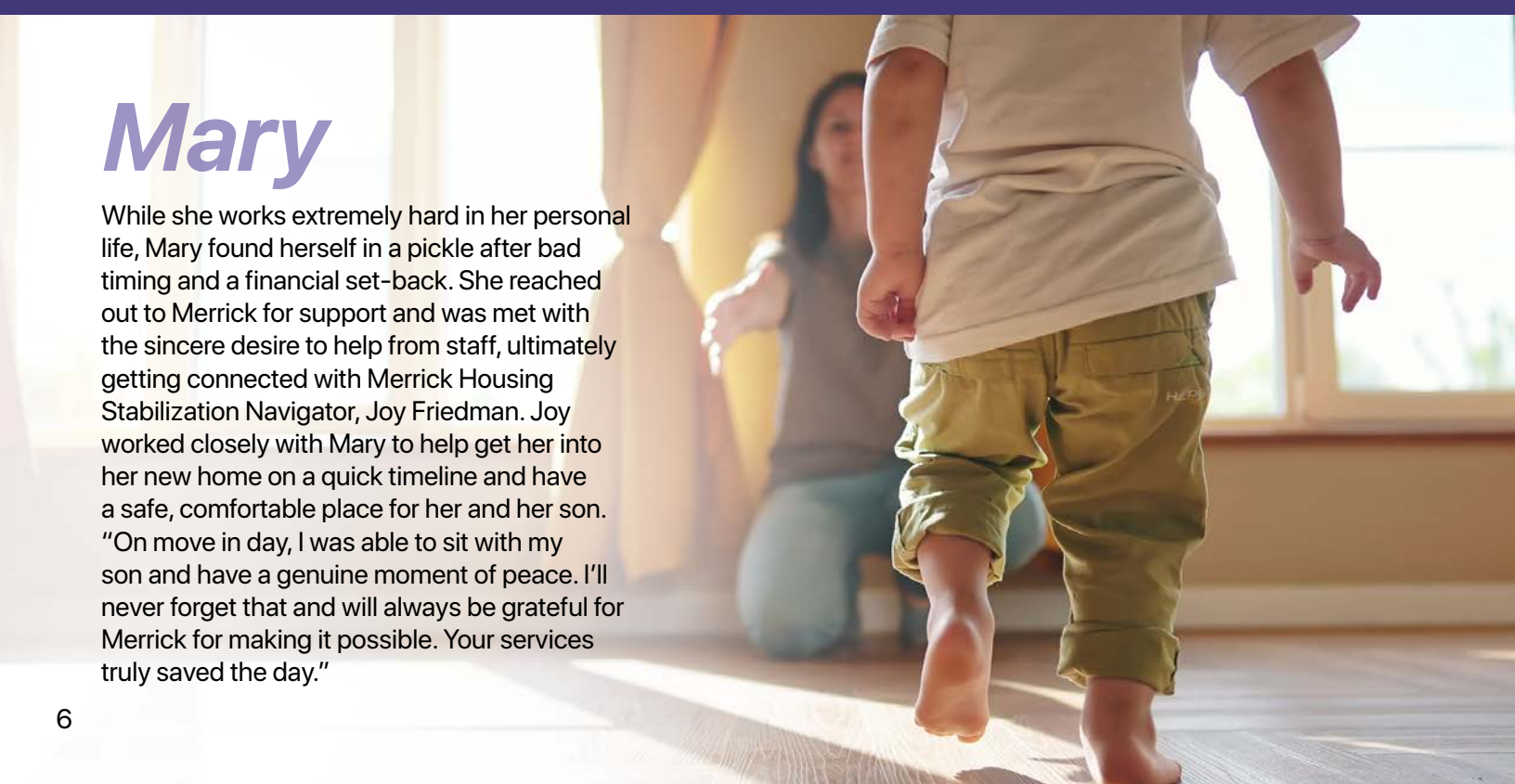
A photograph of Julie, a woman with blonde hair, wearing a green puffer jacket, driving a car. She is looking out the window with a slight smile. The name 'Julie' is written in a large, stylized font over the image.

Julie

Merrick's Meals on Wheels (MOW) program is a staple for homebound individuals on the East Side. For one volunteer, Julie, MOW delivery is something she has been doing since she was a kid when her mom would take her on routes during the summer. While volunteering with Merrick she quickly got to know one participant along her delivery route, Bob. During her visits, Julie noticed that at various points Bob didn't have a working stove, running water, the electricity was out, and his home wasn't clean.

With the help of other MCS volunteers, staff, and county resources, they were able to get Bob the additional support he needed to live comfortably in his home, including a cell phone. Bob is just one example of the impact that Meals on Wheels volunteers have on our participants. Delivering a meal is more than simply getting nutrition to people, it is a meaningful connection that leads to continued independence, friendship, and making sure our neighbors are thriving. For Bob and Julie, one Meals on Wheels route changed both of their lives forever.

Housing stabilization team navigates with support and care

A photograph of Mary, a woman, kneeling on a wooden floor, smiling at her young son who is walking away from the camera. The son is wearing a white t-shirt and green pants. The name 'Mary' is written in a large, stylized font over the image.

Mary

While she works extremely hard in her personal life, Mary found herself in a pickle after bad timing and a financial set-back. She reached out to Merrick for support and was met with the sincere desire to help from staff, ultimately getting connected with Merrick Housing Stabilization Navigator, Joy Friedman. Joy worked closely with Mary to help get her into her new home on a quick timeline and have a safe, comfortable place for her and her son. "On move in day, I was able to sit with my son and have a genuine moment of peace. I'll never forget that and will always be grateful for Merrick for making it possible. Your services truly saved the day."

Volunteers

Organizations like ours could not do the work we do alone. This past year we have had volunteers from across the Twin City Metro area walk through our doors, excited to dive in. These volunteers are individuals, retirees, large corporations, young people from schools with a job coach, ROTC cadets, Scouts of America, families and many others. They all share common threads, to give back, to learn about Merrick, and to remind themselves how fortunate they are in their own lives. Amy Votel, Volunteer and Event Coordinator said this; "The volunteers that have found us this year has been incredible, they sought us out, looking to serve. What a treat it has been to welcome them here and share alongside staff in the work we do on the East Side".

Interested in volunteer opportunities at MCS?

Contact Amy Votel at avotel@merrickcs.org or 651-348-6568.

MPower-ing youth to pursue their dreams

Merrick's MPower program prepares youth and young adults with a foundation for future and career success. For participant Deontea, the program helped him advance his financial literacy skills, how to budget, plan, and research the career field that he wants to pursue. He heard about the program through his girlfriend, who was also an MPower participant. She said that the information provided in the program is applicable to real life – so Deontea decided to take advantage and sign up. He started the program in December 2023, with Leo Jackson as the instructor. Deontea improved his public speaking by presenting his career research plan, did a mock stock market simulator, networked with classmates and other professionals, and ultimately got more set up to pursue his dream of being a registered nurse. He obtained a high-paying job, moved out of a housing program and into his own apartment, and is in the pre-nursing program at Century College. With the support of Leo and the MPower program, Deontea got just the leverage he needed to plan, prepare, and take steps towards the future he envisions for himself.



Quotes from our Satisfaction Survey:

“

The woman who works the drive-through at the food-shelf is always very pleasant and puts a smile on my face. I love her energy!

”

“

Merrick's programs have been extremely helpful, nice and supportive. Thanks to all of you for the services you provide.

”

Merrick's At Home Family Education Program launches

In summer 2024, Merrick's Family At Home Family Education Program began. Lead Parent Educator/Advocate (PEA), Zulma Erickson, kicked off the pilot working with 5 families - 2 pregnant individuals and 3 families with infants – to address the risk factors that families with young children may be facing. Zulma has been working closely with one family who has three children, including a 6-month-old baby girl, to measure their infant's development and make sure she stays on track. Rosalva and her family speak Spanish, and Zulma has guided, advised, and provided resources to the family in a positive manner and in their native language. After four in-person visits, a trusting relationship has been built, and Rosalva's 6-month-old continues to progress in her large motor and other developmental skills.



Our Equity Statement

Merrick Community Services (MCS) recognizes the reality of historically marginalized and socioeconomically disadvantaged persons are the result of systemic and institutional racism and other biases. MCS believes racism and other forms of discrimination have no place in our society. Therefore, we commit to being a diverse, inclusive, and equitable organization, where all participants, staff, volunteers, and partners feel valued and respected and experience a sense of belonging, regardless of their gender identity, race, ethnicity, culture, national origin, religion, citizenship status, age, sexual orientation, education, or disability (seen and unseen). We respect, value, and celebrate diverse life experiences and heritages and ensure a safe place so that all are valued and heard.



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Visit our website



Financial Summary

- Statement of Activities

Audited Financial Statement from Harrington, Langer and Associates
for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	2024	2023
Support		
Contributions	\$3,051,395	\$1,717,032
United Way	342,700	319,700
Total Support	\$3,394,095	\$2,036,732
Revenue		
Government grants and contracts	\$1,620,695	\$576,610
Program service fees	244,080	113,848
Special events	117,883	155,427
Investment income	7,140	7,434
In-kind/Other Revenue	140,753	136,235
Total Revenue	\$2,130,551	\$989,554
Total Support and Revenue	\$5,524,646	\$3,026,286

EXPENSES		
Program Services	\$3,984,495	\$3,054,183
Administrative	533,294	410,617
Fundraising and Development	249,967	382,317
Total Expenses	\$4,767,756	\$3,847,117

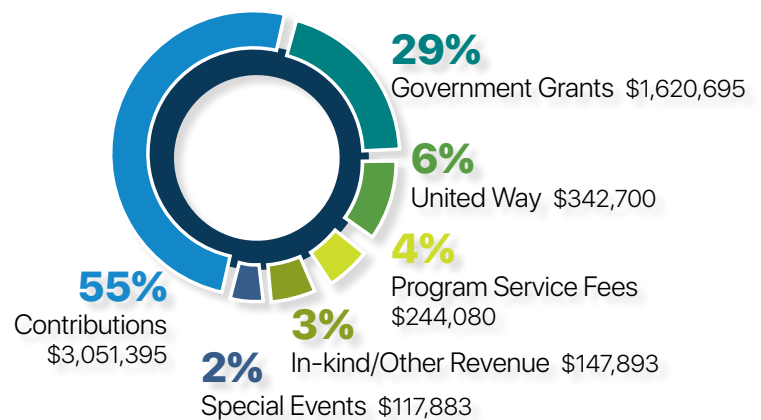
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING	\$2,529,700	\$3,350,531
NET ASSETS, ENDING	\$3,286,590	\$2,529,700

ASSETS	2024	2023
Current assets	\$2,756,976	\$2,120,723
Property and Equipment	1,067,305	1,160,040
Other Assets	1,874,324	1,966,117
Total Assets	\$5,698,605	\$5,246,880

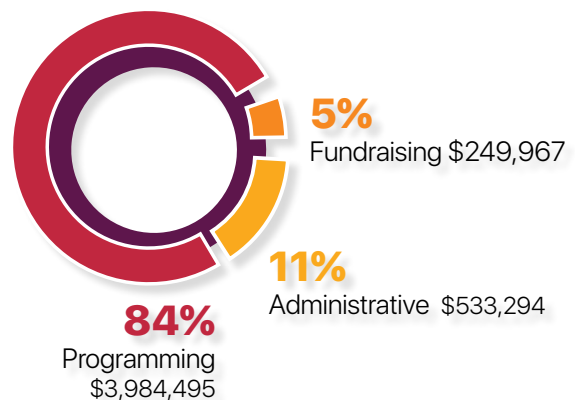
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	\$575,142	\$727,633
Long-Term Liabilities	1,836,874	1,989,547
Net Assets	3,286,589	2,529,700
Total Net Assets & Liabilities	\$5,698,605	\$5,246,880

2023-2024 Operating Revenue \$5,524,646



2023-2024 Operating Expenses \$4,767,756



Total Cost Breakdown for Each Major Program

Program	Expenses
Family Services	\$ 1,224,181
Employment Services	\$ 961,890
Food Shelf	\$ 457,758
Senior Services	\$ 273,924

*Excludes fiscal sponsorship

Thank You to our 2023-2024 Donors!

\$100,000+

Amalgamated Foundation **
Greater Twin Cities United Way *
3M (Company & Foundation) *
Sauer Family Foundation

\$50,000 to \$99,999

Allianz Life
Ecolab Foundation
Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation

\$25,000 to \$49,999

F.R. Bigelow Foundation
Hugh J. Andersen Foundation
IDC Group, Inc. dba IDC Spring
Otto Bremer Trust
Saint Paul and Minnesota Foundation

\$10,000 to \$24,000

AgriBank
Donaldson Foundation
Fred C. & Katherine B. Andersen Foundation
Leif Masrud
Mardag Foundation
Securian Financial Group
SunStream Business Services
Xcel Energy Foundation

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Jessica & Ryan Bierwerth
Andersen Corporate Foundation
C.H. Robinson Foundation
Toni & Keith Kuffel
Fred & Felicia Marsh
Dorsey & Whitney Foundation
Brian Swedeen & Terri Burnor

\$1,000 to \$4,999

Jody Baber
Melanie Baumhover
Susan & Curt Bergmann
Manuel Brett
Linda & Steve Bryan
BWBR Foundation
Brian & Holly Coleman
Glen Copeland
Cross Lutheran Church
Nancy Diekmann
Elmer L. & Eleanor J. Andersen Foundation
Grace Lutheran Church
John Grant & Mary Buerkle- Grant
Mary Gray
Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church
Terese Hill
Hiway Credit Union Foundation
Laura Jacobson
Johnson & Johnson
Kate Kelly & Ben Taylor
Dave & Sue Klevan
James & Heather Lockwood
Jim Lombardi
Luke & Janet Weisberg
Tom McHale
Mississippi Market Cooperative
Joanne Mullen
David Novy
Dan Ritch
Daniel A. Rodriguez
Frank Russomanno
Angela Sizer
Cynthia Skroch
Brien Slawik
Soo Line West Railroad
Michael Tumey
Upper River Services, LLC
Dannielle White
Jim & Carissa Wilson
Robert & Barbara Woodruff
See Xiong
Angela Zurick

\$500 to \$999

Jason Ackley
John Atkins
Blair & Toni Baker
Barnum Gate Services, Inc.
Michelle Bartley
Jane & Gordon Bau
Tracie Berniard
Charles Boline
Jessica Brown
City of Maplewood
Anastacia Davis
Peggy & John Denham
Gary & Joan Fitch
Eric Foster
Joanne Freidlund
Benjamin & Susan Fuller
Heidi Grinde
Guardian Angels Church
Stuart Gustafson
John Harrington
Dan King
Thomas & Mary Kingston
Tom LaFleche
Lake Elmo Bank
Kristen Langhor
Karisa Lindquist
Brett Lothian
Shawn Lowry
Jennifer Marso
Charles & Diane Matkaiti
Ann Meitz
M Health Fairview Foundation
Shawn Mittelstadt
Jerod Nowicki
Paul Runquist
Donna Ryan
Greg Shipp
Rhoda Siewert
John & Diana Swanson
Jan Turnquist
Gerald & Carol Wallin
Henry & Joan Wang
Jackie Warner
Matthew & Erin Weyland
Rosemary Slowiak & William Zajicek
Craig & Carolyn Willms
Perry Wilson

\$250 to \$499

Ruth Anderson
Connor & Nicole Anderson
Gabe Baumbach
Rodella Bierwerth
Dan & Pat Blaskowski
Lucy Braulik
Renee Brown-Goodell
Max Brummel
Ellery Carr
Celeste Carty
Cindy Carvelli-Yu
Pedro Cortez
Tammy Davis Cownie
Michael Dick
Jim Dixon
Joann Ellis
James Ellis
Estee Lauder Companies
Mark and Kristin Gallagher
Dan Galles
Bill Gray
Brandon Griffin
Julie Gugin
Anthony & Susan Hoffman
Ispiri Design-Build
Caitlin Jacobs
Cheryl Jensen
Alice Johnson
Ann Kirn
Pa Dao Lor
Mary McCahey
Molly McCurdy-Yates
Jeff McIntosh
Rachel McLaughlin
Greg Mohwinkel
Mary E. & James Morelli

Kathryn Nichols
Renae Oswald-Anderson
Chris Schweitzer
Lana Siewart-Olson
Schultz Family Lights
Jerry & Lesli Skelly
St Paul Retired Teachers
Kris Taylor
Kayla Theimer
Brian Today
Tina Tuohy
Ris Watson
Amanda Welliver
Mary Welsh
James Yager
Winona Yang

\$100 to \$249

Keith Allen
Craig & Ann Andersh
Jodi Bantley
Jenny Beem
Kate Boyle
Theresa Bresnahan
Rebecca Bryan
Amera Chang
Georgette Christensen
Church of the Blessed Sacrament
Church of the Holy Apostles
Rich Cowles
Ellen Delaney
Thomas Dillon
Arthur Dorman
Kate Eaves
Mohamed Elnabarawy
Michael Faloney
Joy Friedman
Ryan Gould
Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches
Matthew Hassler
Jeana Havlovic
Terry & Steve Hawkins
Bonnie & John Holub
Diamond Hunter
Leo Jackson
Nate Kass
Greg King
Sarah Klass
Anthony Kopka
Steven Larson
Stephanie Lindholm
Jess Lothian
Jeanne Lundeen
Lynn Lundquist
Ted Madison
Cathy Mahoney
Dick McCarthy
Louise McCarthy
Thomas McCarthy
Melissa McNeil
Yusef Mgeni
Andy & Loretta Mobley
Deb Monteith
Debbie Morrison
Robin Morton
Toni Nelson
Kaye Olson
John O'Phelan
Howie Padilla
Leah Palmer
Dennis Paulson
Deanna Perchysyn
Ron Zweber & Peter Scott
Richard & Christine Pratt
PCL Construction Services
Beverly Peterson
Jessica Peterson
Patti Plash
Jeanne Portoghesse
Rita Pratt
Tammie Ptacek
Laura Rutledge
David M Schiller
Jean Schroeder
Katy Schultz

Douglas Schultz
Wendy Shragg
Kathy Sibbel
Joan Siewert-Cardona
Spencer Sokoly
Dita Squires
Ronald & Joan Steblay
Joan Stiles
Gary Taruscio
Tou Nou Thao
Julie Thompson
Jodi Pope & Timothy Wong
Ethan & Ashley Trepp
Robert Van
Katherine Verhasselt
Donna & Harris Viker
Victoria Virasy-Ertelt
Amy Votel
Sally & Dave Wangenstein
Alaina Werkhoven
Tom Whaley
Kathleen White
Nancy White
Bruce Williams
Mary Willms Wohlwend
Mai Chong Xiong
Pang Xiong
Francisco & Naomi Zamora

\$1 to \$99

Melinda Anderson
McKinley Anderson
Austin Bamrick
Travis Bavin
Lori Bertrand
Peter Borden
Lynn Bower
Dianne Brooke
Kathy Brown
Mary Beth Crowley
Rozanne Czeck
Andrea & Max Date
William & Susan Davern
D.B. Ditmarson
Erin Driscoll
Sonni DuMarce
Judith Enfield
Shelby Ferstl
Christine & Christian Fisher
A.J. & Ann Freking
Gregory Fritz
Patrick & Lois Gallagher
Sarah Geving
Rachelle Gillette
Mary Gleason
Willie Gregg
Cathy Hamilton
Kathleen Hartmann
Robert Hatch
Meredith Heneghan
Linda Henneman
Jessica Hirte
Raymond & Susanne Hoyt
Ahti Hujanen
Arland Hultgren
Nicole Iskierka
Jenny Jennings
Nancey Johnson
Beth Jones
Bruce Kamin
Glorius Keys
Kimberly Labinski
Karla Ladwig
David Larson
Liberty Diversified International
Pazao Lee
Yvonne Leick
Dona Leland
Karl Maier
Adam Mandel
Gene & Mila Matter
Heidi Meyer
Cory Meyer
Alyssa Michaletz
Susan Mockenhaupt

Sheila Mohr
Carol Mollner
Jen Moore
Denise Moscomb
Linda Nelson
Lori Nelson
J Shipley Newlin Jr
Kari Niedfeldt-Thomas
Michelle O'Leary
Eric Patterson
Tom Plowman
Jeremy Renger
Marlis Risberg
Leon Rodrigues
Barbara Roloff
Judy Schumacher
Judith & John Sherman
Mary Sievers
William Siglin
Gabriel Skelly
Linda Strohkirch
Jeffrey & Amye Strunk
Bryn Trygg
Joan Velasquez
Sarah Walburg
John Mo Walrath
Mary Ann Wesley
Anna Zappetillo

* Funding supports Merrick and East Side Employment xChange

** Funding supports Partnership For Equitable & Resilient Communities

Merrick appreciates the generous public support we receive from the State of Minnesota, Ramsey County, and other units of government.

Interested in Meals On Wheels?

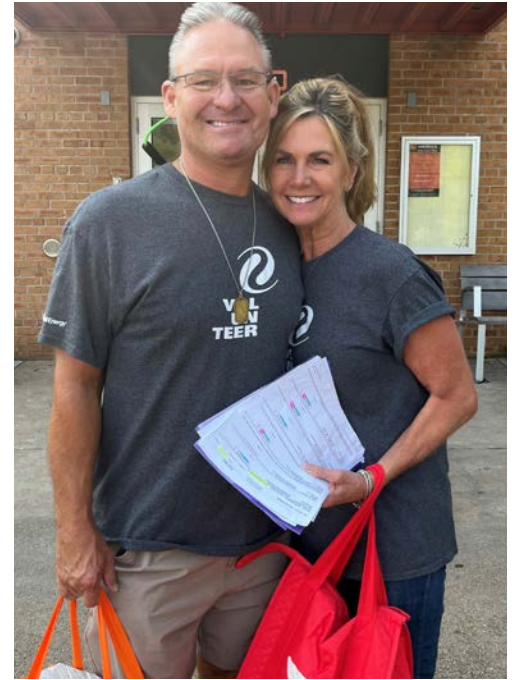
Here at Merrick we have a team of dedicated volunteers that serve our senior population on a daily basis. For many of these homebound East Side and Washington County residents it may be the only time they interact with someone face to face. Would you like to be that face for them?

Routes are scheduled Monday-Thursday. Meal pick-up is time between 10:45-11:15 a.m. and the average route takes about an hour. You can sign up for as little as one time per month, on your own with a friend, co-worker, or create a team to take to share a route each week of the month.

You will need a reliable vehicle with insurance and will be required to pass a background check.

If you have any questions please contact Doug Nelson at **651-219-5531** or email at dnelson@merrickcs.org.

We look forward to seeing you soon!



To volunteer or to donate to Merrick Community Services, please go to www.merrickcs.org or call **651-771-9339**.



Donate today!

Simply scan this QR code to be taken to the MCS donate page. Your donation is tax-deductible and will go towards serving those on the East Side.



Looking Ahead: 2024-2025

Camp Merrick Fundraiser: November 19

Holiday Share Toy Distribution: December 14

Volunteer Appreciation Event: April, 2025

UpLift Annual Fundraising Event: May 6, 2025



Merrick Community Services
1669 Arcade Street N., Suite 4
St Paul, MN 55106-1041
(651) 771-9339
info@merrickcs.org



Special thanks for this report goes to MCS staff and consultants, donors, volunteers, and our Board of Directors. And to each participant we meet and are privileged to serve, we are grateful for your trust and the opportunity to learn together.