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MERRICK
Community Services
Growing. Stronger. Together.

Holiday Share Success

After months of collecting toy donations, registering families, decorating and other prep, Merrick hosted our annual toy distribution on (a very chilly) Saturday, December 13th. It was a huge success - with over 300 parents and guardians coming to the event day-of to pick out toys! Along with toys families received fresh produce (squash, carrots, onions, potatoes), bakery items, wrapping paper, hats/mittens, lightbulbs, and other miscellaneous food and household items.



Volunteers from Prestige Beverage Group sorting toys



Araceli passing out produce

We had music, decor, hot chocolate and over **100** volunteers and MCS staff & board members bringing the energy! Merrick is so grateful to all of the donors, volunteers, and staff members who pulled off this incredible event. Happy Holidays to all!



Some friends waited while their parents shopped



The Boy Scouts helping distribute toys

Senator Tina Smith Visits Merrick!

On November 25th Merrick was paid a special visit by United States Senator Tina Smith, who came by to tour, help in our Food Shelf and deliver two routes for Meals on Wheels. The Senator is not running for re-election in 2026, and is using some of her final term to look back and do some of the things she did when she first became a Senator - one of those things being Meals on Wheels!

We are grateful to Metro Meals on Wheels for suggesting Merrick as the chosen Meals on Wheels distributor. Merrick was thrilled to share more about our services, needs, and successes. Thanks for the visit, Senator!



Metro Meals on Wheels Executive Director Patrick Rowan (left), Senator Tina Smith, & MCS Meals on Wheels Coordinator Tim Dooley (right)



Amy Votel (left), MCS Development Manager, shows the Senator our volunteer wall

MCS Volunteers Honored at Meals on Wheels Luncheon



MCS Executive Director Dan Rodriguez (left) alongside Blair and Toni Baker

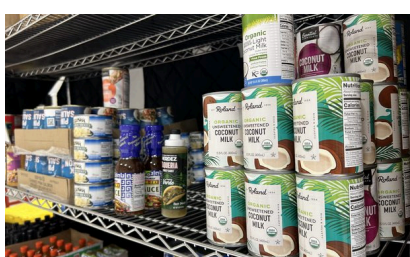
In 2025 Meals on Wheels of Ramsey County celebrates its 50 year anniversary - a huge milestone marking decades of serving our community with nutritious meals and helping them maintain independence! Meals on Wheels of Ramsey County hosted a luncheon in early November and two long-time,

invaluable Merrick volunteers were honored with an award acknowledging their dedication. Toni and Blair Baker have been delivering Meals on Wheels for nearly 50 years. Their dedication to Meals on Wheels, Merrick, and the greater East Side community is unmatched. Thank you, Toni & Blair!

Support Your Community this Giving Season!

End the year with a contribution to Merrick

In 2025, Merrick Community Services continued serving the East Side of Saint Paul and beyond with the care, dedication, and responsiveness instilled in our organization since its inception in 1908. **We are making a difference and the need is greater.** As 2026 approaches, we see continued growing demand for services: from increased cost of living, decreased availability of government resources, and other barriers that inhibit access to stable food, housing and other necessities. Help support **your** neighbors this end of year by making a contribution at the link below!



[Donate Here](#)

MCS 2024-25 Impact Report is Live!

[Click Here for Merrick's 2024-25 Impact Report](#)

Upcoming Events

- **Volunteer Appreciation Event**
 - Thursday, April 9th, 2026 (registration not yet open)
- **Merrick Spring Fundraiser**
 - Tuesday, May 5th, 2026 (registration not yet open)

[Click Here to Donate](#)

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[Click Here for Planned Legacy Giving](#)



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Our mailing address is:

1669 Arcade Street North, Suite 4

Saint Paul, MN 55106

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