

MERRICK

Community Services

Growing. Stronger. Together.

Annual Report 2016



Mission

To improve the lives of the residents of the East Side of Saint Paul by empowering individuals, strengthening families, and promoting independence.

Since our founding in 1908, Merrick Community Services has served the East Side community in partnership with other agencies, businesses, and community residents.

We believe that by working together we can transform our community into a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Values

Individuality: We recognize each person's unique needs and abilities.

Community: We capitalize on the organization's talents, skills, and resources to adapt to changing needs in the community.

Empowerment: We encourage individuals and groups to act responsibly on behalf of themselves and our community.

Transparency: We value open and honest communication.

Integrity: We act with sincerity to honor the values of Merrick Community Services.

2015-2016 Board of Directors

Tamra Davis Cownie, **Chair**
Securian Trust Company

John Bredesen, Jr., **Vice Chair**
Minco Products, Inc.

Kathryn Sibbel, **Secretary**
Ecolab

John Atkins, **Treasurer**
Metropolitan Council

Ruth Anderson
AgriBank

Wolfie Browender
Z Systems

Nancy Diekmann
Supervalu

Brian Findlay
3M

Bonne Kluge
Community Member

Callie Koeniger
Sunrise Banks

John Lozoya
Saint Paul Police Department

Michael Luseni
Special Education Substitutes

Erin Mathern
Winthrop & Weinstein

Rod Mendenhall
3M

Brady Walz
Ecolab

Henry Wang
Asia Trends

Daniel A. Rodriguez,
Executive Director
Merrick Community Services



A Message for our Community

Merrick Community Services has been a safe haven for East Side residents for over 100 years; working with the community to empower individuals, strengthen families, and promote their independence. Our dedication and commitment to new arrivals and individuals and families in transition and in crisis, who are looking for a pathway out of poverty to self-sufficiency, is unwavering.

2016 was an extraordinary year for Merrick Community Services. Thousands of people struggling with hunger, poverty, homelessness, and unemployment came to Merrick for help in meeting their greatest needs. We served over 15,000 community members through our Food Shelves, Senior Services and Youth and Family Programming.

Recognizing that many Saint Paul residents may not be aware of how Merrick can help improve their lives, Merrick's Board and staff teamed up with experts from 3M to establish new communications guidelines, which included a new logo and styleguide. These updates have helped increase Merrick's visibility in the community, as well as provides a greater understanding of who we are and what we do.

Merrick also paused its new strategic planning process in 2016 to focus its efforts to complete its capital campaign and identify a new building equipped to meet the needs of our East Side community. In 2017, Merrick will move to a new home and complete a new strategic plan designed to ensure future success.

Last but not least, we know that our success depends on you. Without your gifts of time and energy, expertise and financial support, Merrick Community Services could not achieve its mission. Thank you to each and every one of you.

In gratitude and with much appreciation,



Daniel A. Rodriguez
Executive Director
Merrick Community Services



FOOD SHELF

In 2016, Merrick's Food Shelf distributed **734,234** pounds of nutritious food and hygiene products to **41,235** East Side residents.

Every year, thousands of people struggling with poverty and hunger come to the Food Shelf. People on the East Side of Saint Paul know they can visit the Food Shelf and consistently find fresh food, vegetables, fruits, dairy, proteins, nutritious staples and hygiene products to support their families. People can shop for their specific needs while satisfying their individual, family, and cultural preferences. The Food Shelf also features a produce give-a-way, mobile culturally-specific food shelves, healthy grocery delivery and food distribution sites for homebound seniors, and school nutritional programs.

In 2016, we partnered with Second Harvest Heartland, Cub Foods Stores, Target, local businesses, and numerous area churches to support community members experiencing hunger. In addition, Ramsey County Public Health, MNSure, Ramsey County Humane Society and U of MN Extension Services joined Merrick at our food shelves distribution sites to provide resources and referrals.



March Food Drive

March is Minnesota FoodShare month. Every year, the food drive provides more than half the food distributed by Minnesota's 300 food shelves, including Merrick. In 2016, East Siders donated 44,650 lbs. of food and raised \$67,000 in cash donations to help ensure that people living in our community don't go hungry. Community support for Merrick's Food Drive makes a big difference - thank you for your donations of food, your financial contributions and your kindness!

Feeding the Hungry

Karla found her way to Merrick's Food Shelf after desperately calling a food assistance hotline for help and walked through our doors a few hours later. "When I come here, I feel like I'm shopping at my own store." She enjoys choosing healthy options like whole wheat bread, low-sodium soup and lean meats. The food shelf's client choice model allows Karla to choose food she will actually eat. "I use everything I take, unlike before when the food was prepackaged." Every now and then, Karla can even have friends over for dinner. "My friend comes over and fixes my car for free and as a thank you I am able to cook him a nice meal."

"I can't tell the Food Shelf staff thank you enough!"

- Karla

40,833

pounds of food were distributed to 2,738 residents at Merrick's mobile distribution sites.

162

community members received information and referrals to Merrick's partners for additional assistance in meeting their basic needs.

7,515

hours were donated by volunteers to support the food shelf.

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Program staff helped **166** community members secure employment.

The East Side is home to many people who are in transition - immigrants, people rebounding from job loss, and others just plain starting over. Our community's unemployment rate is at 14%. Merrick's Employment Services helps unemployed community members find, secure and keep jobs that provide a livable wage. Program participants work with warm and caring employment counselors to gain knowledge, build skills, and ultimately become gainfully employed. Our East Side Job Bank is always bustling with activity.

People come to the Job Bank to access the internet for employment searches, fill out online job applications and use the phones, fax machines and photocopiers. Working with the community, Merrick has developed strong partnerships with trainers and over 60 employers, ensuring that community members have a wide variety of training and employment opportunities needed to secure good jobs.



Creating Stability

After eight years of being clean and sober, Kristin, a single mother of five, was still working 2 to 3 jobs to support her family. “I heard about Merrick through my sister and was so grateful to find this program.” Kristin joined Merrick’s 10-week Construction Workers Training Program where she learned construction, OSHA 30, flagging, CPR, and other skills needed to succeed. When training concluded, Kristin successfully tested for her Class A license and secured a great job that pays a livable wage. Kristin can drive most any vehicle including a 52-foot tractor trailer. “Getting my Class A license has opened up so many doors”. Today, Kristin’s family is stable and she is looking forward to the future.

“Everyone at Merrick wants people to succeed. I’m really grateful to all of them. They really care.”

-Kristin

810

community members accessed Merrick’s employment services.

231

community members attended Merrick’s job fairs.

75%

of participants who completed certification training programs secured employment.

SENIOR SERVICES

Merrick's Meals on Wheels delivered **22,948** hot, nutritious meals to seniors on Saint Paul's East Side.

Merrick's Senior Services helps homebound seniors, living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, remain independent and continue living in their own homes for as long as possible. Most of our seniors live alone, live with relatives who work or they live in senior residential facilities with little or no daily living assistance. Merrick's staff and the seniors work together to develop and implement a plan to meet their individual needs.

Operating one of the largest Meals on Wheels programs in Ramsey County, Merrick ensures nutritious food is delivered daily to our community's seniors. In addition, we provide senior mobile food programs, social engagement groups, resource and referral services and yard clean-ups for homebound seniors. Oftentimes, it's the so-called "little things" that precipitate a senior's move from their home. With just a little bit of help, many seniors can remain in their homes for years to come.



Growing Friendships

Ms. Evelyn is the sweetest Grandma in town. She loves listening to records and chicken fried rice. Through our Meals on Wheels, Evelyn receives 5 hot, nutritious meals a week and a safety check. Recently, she joined our Senior Independence Pilot Program to combat her feelings of isolation. “I hate being alone with no one to talk to”, says Evelyn. “I just start talking to myself and listening to my records.” Evelyn is quite the social butterfly. She’s made friends with the other ladies and they’ve exchanged phone numbers so they can chat during the week. She laughs, tells jokes, and calls to make sure Merrick is picking her up each week!

“I can’t wait until Tuesday comes. I have so much fun with you guys.”

- Ms. Evelyn

150

volunteers donated 4,508 hours of their time to deliver brown-bag groceries to seniors.

24

distributions of 40,000 lbs. of food were made onsite at locations for seniors with mobility issues.

22

seniors welcomed assistance with their chores and spring and fall yard clean-ups.

52

social groups helped seniors struggling with loneliness and isolation.

YOUTH SERVICES

Youth participated in **2,709** hours of fun, engaging learning activities.

Through the Explorers Club, Youth Services provides safe after-school and summer programming for young people living on Saint Paul's East Side designed to promote responsibility, respect for self, others and property. Under the guidance and mentorship of caring staff and volunteers, youth and their families engage in hands-on learning experiences, field trips and guest speaker presentations that promote the "5 C's of Youth Development" - Competence, Confidence, Connection, Character, and Caring.

Partnerships with schools like HOPE Community Academy and Arlington Hills Community Center make programming easily accessible and interaction with the St. Paul Police Department's Literacy Program and Athletic League increase positive interaction with adults. Young people participating in the Explorer's Club were able to explore STEM - science, technology, engineering and mathematics; develop healthy living/ life skills; and discover food science. These youth learned how to problem-solve, become self-reliant and work as part of a team.



Brightening Lives

Each year, Merrick Community Services, led by Youth Services staff, works together with businesses, churches, nonprofit organizations and community members to help brighten the holidays for families struggling with poverty in Saint Paul's East Side.

The Holiday Share event is a two-day celebration of giving and cheer. In 2016, we were so fortunate to have 103 faithful volunteers who worked hard sorting, stocking and helping 649 parents find that special something for 1,500 children, ages 3 to 16, in our toy shop.

A special thank you to all of you who helped make 2016's Holiday Season a happy one for children and families in Saint Paul's East Side!

“These gifts are such a blessing ... my kids were hoping to get nice Christmas gifts that I couldn't afford. Because of these toys, my kids will be smiling this Christmas!”

- Parent

75

young people, ages 11 through 13, participated in after-school and summer youth programming.

70%

attendance rate for program participants.

595

youth received back-to-school supplies and backpacks at the Back-To-School Celebration.

FAMILY SERVICES

Merrick helped **901** individuals and **426** families receive intervention and prevention resources to address complex needs.

We support East Side families facing poverty, domestic violence, and acute economic challenges, helping them reduce barriers and find a pathway to self-sufficiency. With a rich history of serving diverse populations, experience has taught us that to be effective, our services must be individualized and culturally appropriate. Whether in need of emergency financial support or experiencing an unsafe living environment, the majority of people who visit Merrick are “walk-ins,” people who need their basic needs met and support to stabilize their lives.

Family Services offers guidance, domestic violence prevention and parenting classes, peer-support groups, and case management. Our approach is holistic—teaching, counseling, modeling, and advocating for each family. Collaboration is key to the success of this program. Many families have medical and mental health needs beyond the scope of Merrick’s services. We refer these families to partner organizations equipped to provide comprehensive, culturally-competent services.



Growing Stronger Together

“My name is Tiffany. I’m 30 years old and have four beautiful children. Life has not been easy for me. I began working when I was 13 and have continued to do so ever since. Just a few years ago, I was working three jobs trying to make rent each month. Feeding my kids, putting a roof over their heads, and trying to find love was tough for a single mom. Merrick provided me with housing assistance, which kept my family under one roof, and allowed us the financial freedom to experience a quality of life that was normal. For the first time, I was given a chance to breathe and adequately provide for my children.”

“We were just a day away from being homeless when I was referred to Merrick Community Services for help!”

-Tiffany

208

new families participated in Merrick’s family services.

222

residents accessed support through 8 domestic violence groups.

753

hours were donated by volunteers to help families in need.

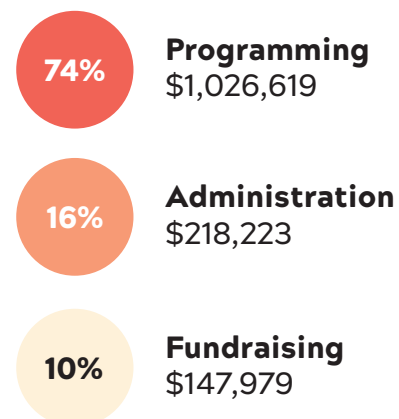
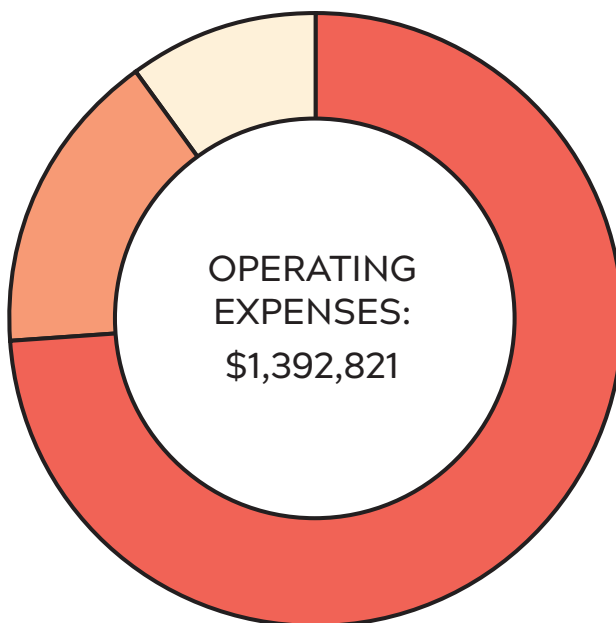
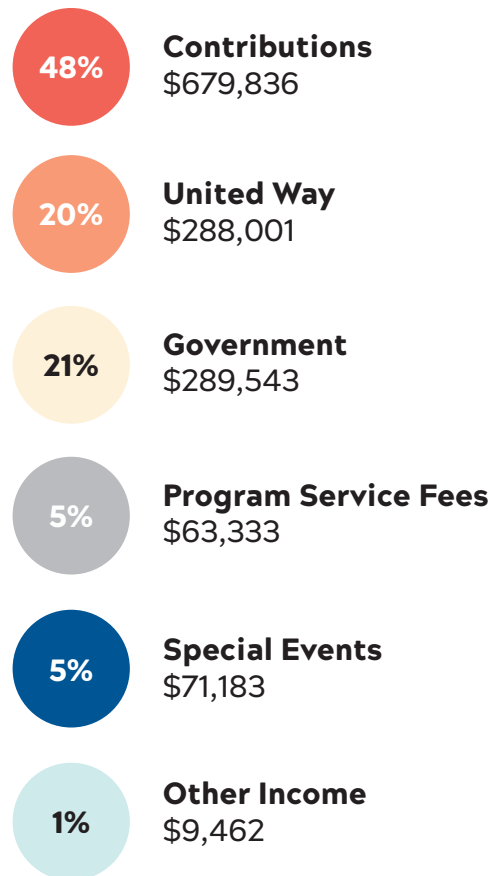
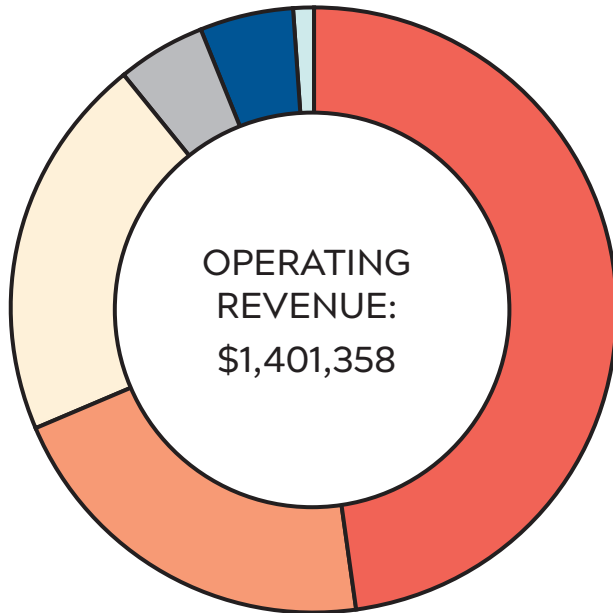
Financial Summary - Statement of Activities

Audited Financial Statement from Harrington, Langer and Associates for fiscal year ending June 30, 2016

	Total 2015	Total 2016
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Support		
Contributions	\$735,150	\$666,319
United Way	288,001	280,813
Total Support	1,023,151	947,132
Revenue		
Government grants and contracts	289,543	367,150
Program service fees	63,333	87,397
Special events	71,183	69,682
Rental income	-	5,400
Investment gain	9,610	10,541
Gain on sale of property and equipment	137,419	-
Other income (loss)	(148)	39,756
Total Revenue	570,940	579,926
Total Support and Revenue	1,594,091	1,527,058
EXPENSES		
Program services	1,026,618	1,031,992
Capital campaign	55,314	294,440
Administrative	218,223	204,839
Fundraising and development	147,979	118,284
Total Expenses	1,448,134	1,649,555
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING	1,792,051	1,914,548
NET ASSETS, ENDING	\$1,938,008	\$1,792,051

	2016	2015
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS	1,555,166	2,131,349
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	5,058	8,746
OTHER ASSETS	434,338	451,495
TOTAL ASSETS	1,994,562	2,591,590
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES	56,554	152,255
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES	-	647,284
NET ASSETS	1,938,008	1,792,051
TOTAL NET ASSETS AND LIABILITIES	1,994,562	2,591,590

Revenue for 2015-2016 Fiscal Year*



*The pie charts represent Merrick Community Services operations only and do not include Capital Campaign revenue or expenses.

Looking to the Future

2016 has been an exciting year for Merrick Community Services. Working together, the staff and Board of Directors have identified the perfect location for Merrick's new home in Saint Paul's East Side.

For several years now, we have been looking for a location that would provide space for all programs, administrative offices, as well as a new Meals on Wheels distribution center and food shelf - all under one roof. And we found one! Negotiations began in earnest in late 2016. Watch for more news about Merrick's new home.

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Merrick Community Services Food Shelf

Woodland Hills
1740 Van Dyke Street,
Saint Paul, MN 55109
651.287.2088



MERRICK

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Merrick Community Services
meets all standards of the
Charities Review Council.