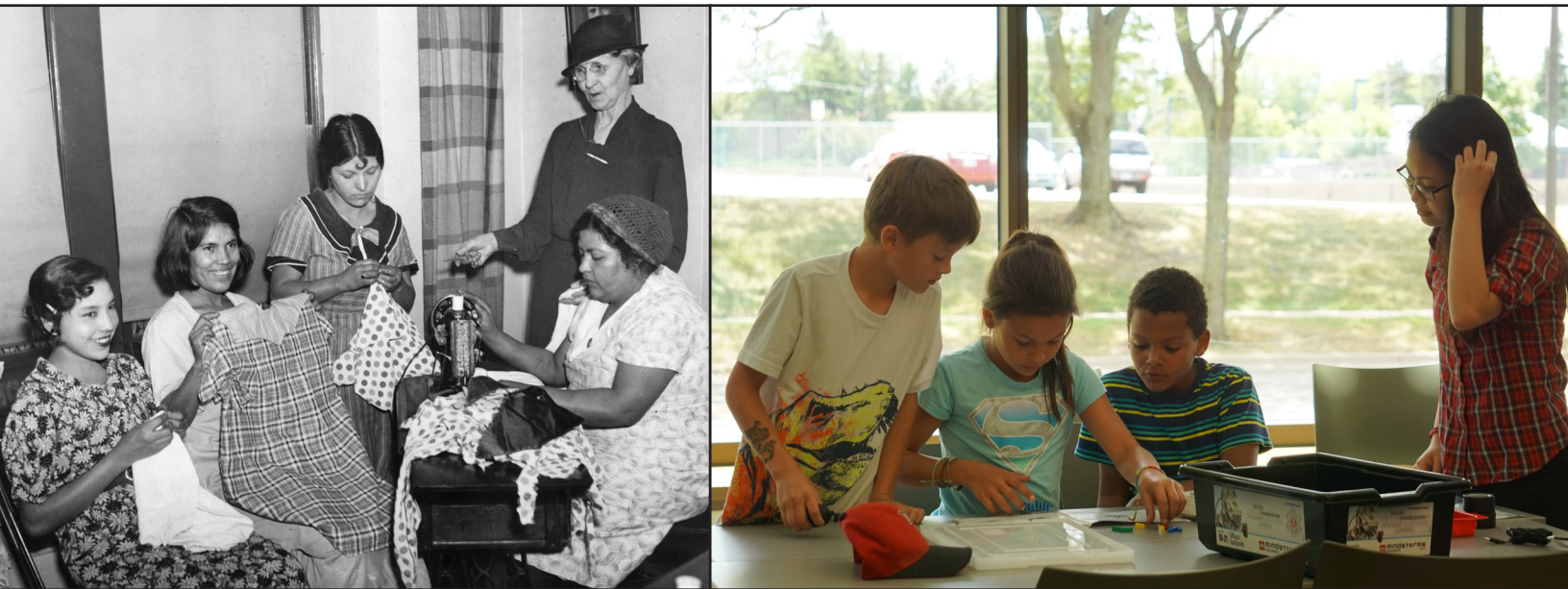




MERRICK

Community Services

Growing. Stronger. Together.



Rooted in the East Side of Saint Paul Since 1908

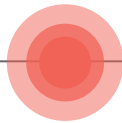
Left: Women learn sewing skills at the Christ Child Community Center in 1935. Right: Merrick Youth Services participants learn to build robots in 2017.

After meeting Mary Virginia Merrick in Washington, D.C., Mrs. H.T. Quinlan established the Saint Paul Chapter of the Christ Child Society. Early programming began in a small house on the grounds of the old Saint Ambrose church. Services were based on the Christ Child Society's settlement house model, developed to support the needs of recent immigrants.

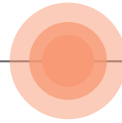


A Christ Child Society Catechism class at Saint Ambrose, 1930

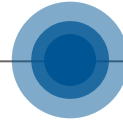
1908



1926



1958



A new community center was built on the corner of Edgerton and Minnehaha: The Merrick Community Center, named after the Christ Child Society's founder.

The Saint Paul chapter of the Christ Child Society opened a community center in a church building off Lower Payne Avenue. In 1932, the building was destroyed by fire, but another was quickly constructed in its place. The Christ Child Community Center operated in this location for almost 30 years.



Mary Virginia Merrick was born in 1866 in Washington, D.C. and became permanently paralyzed when she was a teenager. Despite her physical limitations, she dedicated herself to serving children and families in need, and founded the Christ Child Society in 1887. Her generous spirit has inspired many, and some consider her a saint.



Mrs. H.T. Quinlan, a resident of Saint Paul, traveled to Washington, D.C. for a business trip in 1908 and met Mary Virginia Merrick by chance. After learning about the work of the Christ Child Society, Quinlan returned to Minnesota determined to establish a chapter in Saint Paul. Programming began that same year.

Merrick Community Services left the Merrick Community Center on Edgerton due to a deteriorating building and prohibitive repair costs, and moved into a temporary location at the Old Swedish Bank Building on Payne and Case.



Our new home: 1669 Arcade Street North, Suite 4

1990



The Saint Paul Chapter separated from the national Christ Child Society and became an independent organization: **Merrick Community Services**, which continued to operate out of the community center on Edgerton street for the next 23 years.

2013



2017



Merrick Community Services moved out of the Old Swedish Bank Building and into a permanent home at 1669 Arcade Street North, on the campus of Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church. At the new Merrick Community Center, for the first time in years, all of our programs and services are accessible at one location.

Like an old-growth tree in the city, Merrick Community Services has been a trusted presence on the East Side of Saint Paul for more than a century. While we stand firm in our mission to empower individuals, strengthen families, and promote independence, we also change with the seasons, always adapting to meet the needs of our neighbors on the East Side.

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.

2016-2017 Board of Directors

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

Rod Mendenhall, Vice Chair
3M

Kathryn Sibbel, Secretary
Ecolab

John Atkins, Treasurer
Metropolitan Council

Ruth Anderson
AgriBank

Wolfie Browender
Community Volunteer

Max Brummel
Ecolab

Nancy Diekmann
Xcel Energy

Brian Findlay
3M

Callie Koeniger
Sunrise Banks

Bonne Kluge
Retired

John Lozoya
Saint Paul Police Department

Michael Luseni
Minneapolis Public Schools

Erin Mathern
Winthrop & Weinstine

Betty Nelson
Retired

Brady Walz
Ecolab

Daniel A. Rodriguez
Executive Director
Merrick Community Services



Letter from the Executive Director

Friends and Supporters:

2017 has been a momentous year for Merrick Community Services. After years of planning, our efforts have finally paid off with our new site at Arcade and Larpenteur. As we celebrate the opening of the new Merrick Community Center and look forward to the possibilities this new location will bring, it is helpful to reflect upon our history to remember where we came from and fully appreciate our journey.

The roots of Merrick Community Services (MCS) run deep in the East Side. Originally founded in 1908 as the Saint Paul Chapter of the Christ Child Society, the organization has retained a strong, consistent core as it has grown and evolved. We can see something familiar in old photos: East Siders and others coming together to support our neighbors, while providing innovative programs and services with warmth, respect, and dignity. This is the legacy we proudly carry forward, and it is evident in our recent activities from the 2016-2017 program year:

- Merrick's Food Shelf distributed over **585,000** pounds of food to **33,000** individuals. Utilizing the Client Choice model, our Food Shelf allows visitors to shop for the specific items they need. "I feel like I am shopping at my own store," says Karla, a regular Food Shelf participant.
- Nearly **22,000** hot, nutritious meals were delivered through Merrick's Meals on Wheels Program and **46** Senior Social Groups were held, providing an opportunity for seniors on the East Side to stay active, make new friends, and continue to lead full, independent lives.
- Our annual Holiday Share distribution event provided gifts and basic needs items to **1,500** youth. "These gifts are such a blessing," said a parent. "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!"
- With a **70%** one-year retention rate, **57%** of the **574** participants in our Employment Services were placed into gainful employment.
- Over **1,330** individuals and **458** households grew stronger through support from Family Services.
- We began the year 2017 with a new MCS logo, which was supported by earlier rebranding and messaging work.

For many on the East Side, Merrick Community Services is a reassuring presence. Thanks to the ongoing efforts of our funders, donors, partners, volunteers, and staff, our programs go beyond meeting basic needs to address the whole person. Now that all of our programs and services are accessible at one location, we look forward to becoming even more firmly planted in the community. *Growing Stronger Together*, we remain steadfast in our commitment to supporting our community on the East Side and beyond.

In gratitude and with much appreciation,



Daniel A. Rodriguez
Executive Director

PROGRAMS



Employment Services

We offer a variety of resources to support unemployed and underemployed adults as they look for work and build skills for today's job market. Through our onsite Resource Center, One-On-One Employment Coaching, certified training programs, and community partnerships, we are committed to helping our neighbors on the East Side sustain their career goals.



Family Services

Merrick's Family Services advocates for individuals and families and addresses their immediate needs. Through culturally appropriate case management, support groups, special events, and referrals, the program strives to strengthen and promote healthy families and build community on the East Side.

AT-A-GLANCE



Food Shelf



Senior Services



Youth Services

Providing a variety of high-quality foods and household supplies, Merrick's Food Shelf is dedicated to connecting families and individuals with community resources to help eliminate the long-term causes of hunger. We utilize the Client Choice model, which allows participants to shop for the specific items they need while satisfying personal and cultural preferences.

Merrick's Senior Services helps homebound seniors remain independent and continue living in their own homes for as long as possible. 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.

Through after-school and summer Explorer's Club and special events throughout the year, Merrick's Youth Services invites young people to participate in interactive, hands-on activities designed to promote life-long learning, holistic wellness, and leadership empowerment.

Merrick Community Services: Then and Now



1940 - The Christ Child Community Center offers dental service for East Side youth.



2015 - A volunteer gives free haircuts at Merrick's Back to School Celebration.

Caring for the Whole Person

Throughout our 109-year history, Merrick Community Services has been responsive to the individual needs of our neighbors on the East Side.

Sometimes, a person's needs fall outside broad categories like food, housing, or employment. Sometimes, what is needed most is a dental check-up, a haircut, or, in the case of Rick, a set of tools.

Rick came to Merrick because he was struggling to care for himself and his two sons on county assistance. A Family Services caseworker helped him get connected with rental assistance and other resources, and soon, through Merrick's Employment Services, Rick learned of an opportunity to

receive training as an auto technician. When he completed the training, three different auto shops offered him employment, however, contractors did not want to hire him unless he had his own set of tools. He could not afford the tools on his own, but Merrick caseworkers sprung into action and applied for a grant to cover the cost. Rick obtained the tools, and is now happily employed as a full-time auto technician.

Here at Merrick, we know that everyone who walks through our door is a unique individual with complex needs, so we cannot use a one-size-fits-all approach. Our staff is creative, and our programs dynamic—always evolving to address the specific needs of the people we serve.

Merrick caseworkers helped Rick get his own tool set so he could be hired as an auto mechanic.





1940 - Neighborhood kids gather at the Christ Child Community Center.



2017 - Merrick Food Shelf volunteers gather for a picnic at Lake Phalen.

A Gathering Place Across Generations

Now more than ever, our organization is positioned as a hub of support for the East Side—a true community center where people can gather and get connected to the resources they need to thrive. Since 1908, when it was chartered as the Christ Child Society of Saint Paul, it has been a place where East Siders come together, not only to receive assistance, but to learn, play, and serve their neighbors.

In the 2016-2017 programming year, 825 volunteers donated a total of 16,149 hours to Merrick Community Services. For many, volunteering for Merrick becomes a cherished tradition, and often results in surprising connections, like the friendship between Kensi, the five-year-

old daughter of a food shelf volunteer, and Ms. Ev, a Senior Services participant.

Ms. Ev started helping out during Food Shelf distributions by watching Kensi while her mom stocked shelves and checked in visitors. Ev and Kensi quickly took a liking to each other, and this spring, they dyed Easter Eggs together. Ms. Ev taught Kensi to dunk the eggs up and down to get the brightest color.

Now, Kensi calls Ev “Grandma Ev” and enjoys the time they spend together eating snacks and chatting. Becky, Kensi’s mom, gave Ms. Ev a picture of Kensi and her baby sister, which Ev framed and displayed in her living room.



Ms. Ev and her new friend Kensi dyed Easter Eggs together this spring.

BY THE NUMBERS

574 individuals accessed Merrick's Employment Services.



57% of Employment Services participants were placed into gainful employment. Of those employed, **70%** retained their job after one year.



70% of graduates from our Construction Training Program were placed into gainful employment. Of those employed, **70%** retained their job after one year.

129 individuals participated in One-On-One Career Coaching.

76 attended Merrick's job fair.

25% of Merrick's Construction Training participants were female—**5x the national average.**

1,330 individuals were served by Merrick's Family Services.



458 households grew stronger through support from Family Services.

60 individuals participated in support groups.

680 volunteer hours were generously donated to the program.

585,883 pounds of food were distributed by Merrick's Food Shelf.

10,017 households and **32,998** individuals were nourished through the distribution of healthy foods and basic needs items.

372 volunteers donated **7,474** hours to sustain the work of the Food Shelf.



21,805 hot, nutritious meals were delivered to East Side seniors through Merrick's Meals on Wheels program.

354 East Side seniors participated in our Senior Services.

210 volunteer hours were donated.

44,240 pounds of food were distributed through **24** Senior Mobile Distributions.

26 seniors received yard clean-ups.

46 Senior Social Groups were held.



86 youth participated in after school activities at three different community centers on Saint Paul's East Side.



The East Side Youth Robotics League designs, programs, and controls fully functioning robots.

Special Events

1,500 youth received gifts and basic needs items at the **Holiday Share** event, an annual two-day celebration of holiday giving for East Side families led by our Youth Services staff.

At our annual **Back to School Celebration**, **585** East Side youth received new backpacks and school supplies donated by business, churches, and partner organizations. **48 volunteers** donated **155 hours** of their time to make this event a success.

During the 2017 **March Food Drive**, business, schools, congregations, and other supporters raised more than **\$90,000** and collected more than **4,000 pounds of food** for Merrick's Food Shelf.

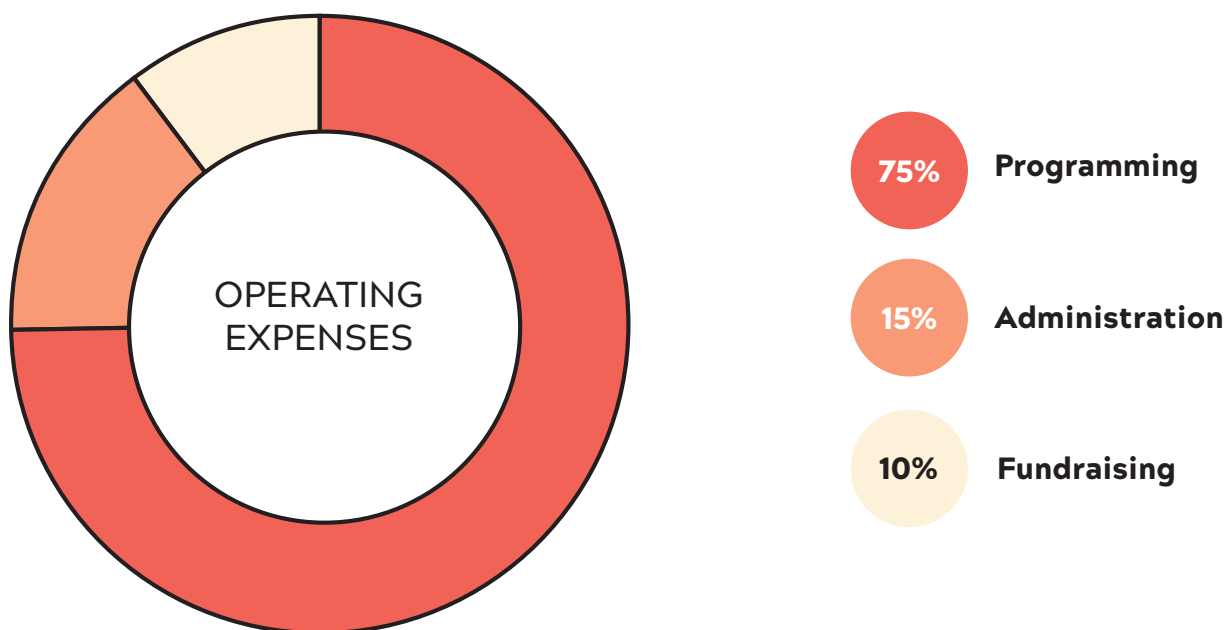
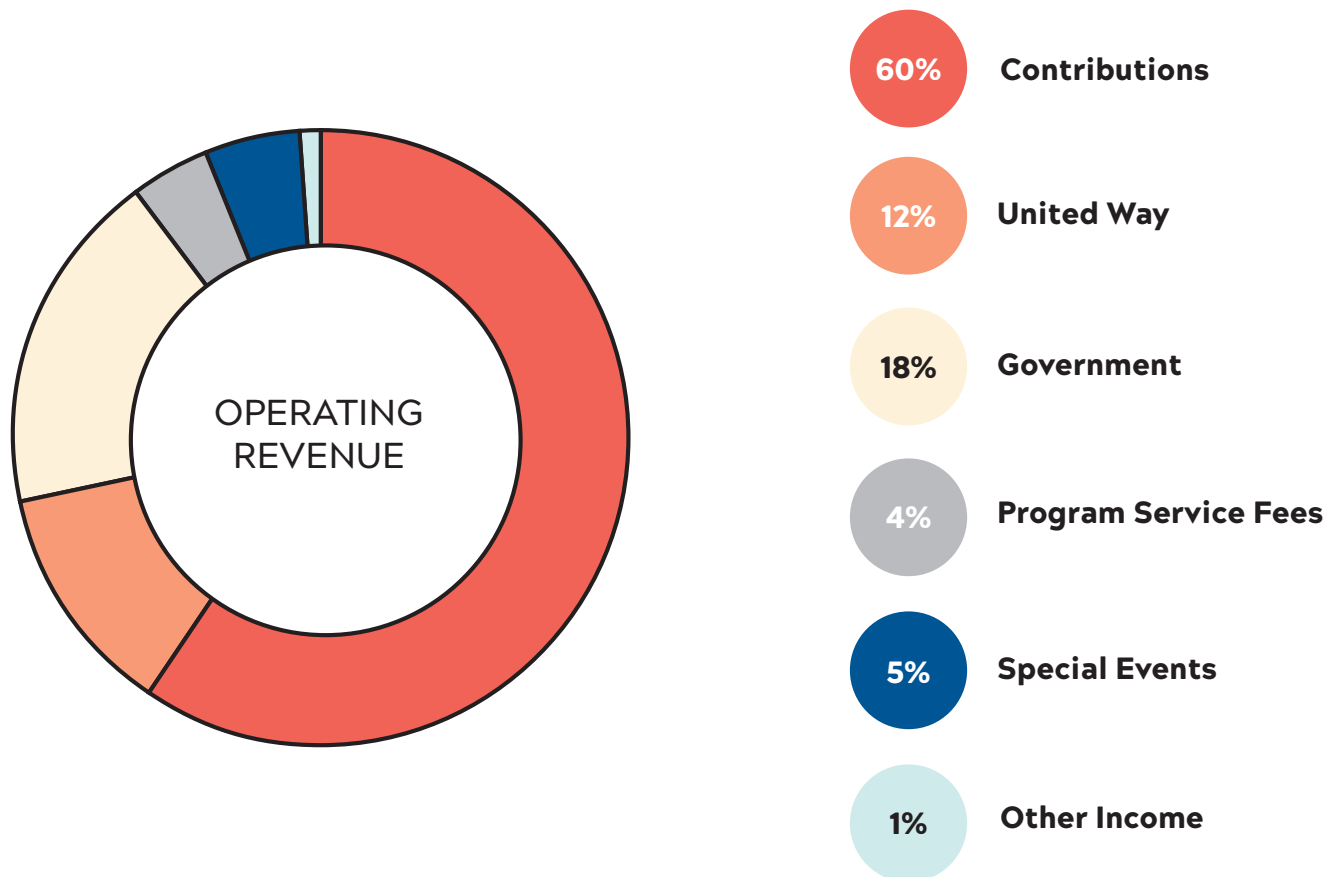
Financial Summary - Statement of Activities

Audited Financial Statement from Harrington, Langer and Associates for fiscal year ending June 30, 2017

	Total 2017	Total 2016
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Support		
Contributions	\$ 799,064	\$ 735,150
United Way	162,000	288,001
Refund on grant	(100,000)	
Losses on pledges receivable	(20,000)	(30,500)
Total Support	841,064	992,651
Revenue		
Government grants and contracts	244,714	289,543
Program service fees	54,463	63,333
Special events	73,036	71,183
Rental income	-	-
Investment gain	10,422	9,610
Gain on sale of property and equipment	-	137,419
Other income (loss)	(370)	(148)
Total Revenue	382,265	570,940
Total Support and Revenue	1,223,329	1,563,591
EXPENSES		
Program services	1,094,629	1,026,618
Capital campaign	75,119	24,814
Administrative	225,554	218,223
Fundraising and development	159,152	147,979
Total Expenses	1,554,454	1,649,555
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING	1,898,008	1,752,051
NET ASSETS, ENDING	\$ 1,566,883	\$ 1,898,008

	2017	2016
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS	1,179,558	1,555,166
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	22,908	5,058
OTHER ASSETS	529,130	394,338
TOTAL ASSETS	1,731,596	1,954,562
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES	130,505	56,554
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES	34,208	-
NET ASSETS	1,566,883	1,898,008
TOTAL NET ASSETS AND LIABILITIES	1,731,596	1,954,562

Revenue for 2016-2017 Fiscal Year*



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

Merrick Community Center

1669 Arcade Street North, Suite 4
Saint Paul, MN 55106

www.merrickcs.org

Phone: 651-771-9339

Office hours: M-F 8am - 4:30pm

Woodland Hills Food Shelf

Woodland Hills
1740 Van Dyke Street
Saint Paul, MN 55109

Phone: 651-287-2088



MERRICK

Community Services

Growing. Stronger. Together.

*Historical photographs courtesy of
the Minnesota Historical Society.*



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