



**United Way
of East Central Iowa**

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United Way 2-1-1 marks sixth anniversary

Cedar Rapids -- United Way's free and confidential 24-hour hotline number, 2-1-1, marks its sixth anniversary tomorrow. People in need of assistance can call 2-1-1 to get connected to resources for basic human needs, physical and mental health, employment support, tax preparation assistance, help for older adults and persons with disabilities, support for children and families and much more.

Since launching in 2004, over 183,000 people in eastern Iowa have called 2-1-1 for support. The majority of calls request information about utility and housing assistance, information and referral, childcare, and food. During the 2008 floods, United Way 2-1-1 became a vital resource for persons in need of disaster assistance and recovery information. In the last six months of 2009, United Way 2-1-1 experienced a 44.5% increase in call volume.

In this area United Way of East Central Iowa coordinates the 2-1-1 service, working in collaboration with Cedar Valley United Way, United Way of Johnson County, United Way of Mahaska County, United Way of Wapello County and Waverly-Shell Rock United Way. This brings 2-1-1 services to 834,000 residents living in 24 eastern and southeastern Iowa counties.

United Way 2-1-1 partners with Linn County, Benton County, Black Hawk County, Cedar County and Jones County Emergency Management agencies. This partnership allows 2-1-1 to be a resource to communities in the event of a disaster. Individuals can call 2-1-1 to receive accurate and timely information during a disaster, such as a flood, tornado or an emergency at the Duane Arnold Energy Center.

If you or someone you know needs help dial 2-1-1 or toll-free 866-469-2211. From a cell phone, or pay phone dial (319) 739-4211.

For more information about United Way 2-1-1, visit the 2-1-1 website at www.211iowa.org.

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