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NEWS RELEASE

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2-1-1 HELPLINE TO RECOGNIZE FEBRUARY 11 AS NATIONAL 2-1-1 DAY

Wednesday, February 11 marks National 2-1-1 Day.

Since 2005, Green Country residents have been dialing 2-1-1 for comprehensive information and referral to social services. In 2008, 2-1-1 Helpline assisted over 103,000 callers in finding free and low-cost services such as financial assistance, food, clothing, health care, shelter, housing, support groups, legal aid, and employment. In just three years' time, 2-1-1 Helpline has seen a 350% increase in calls.

Through dialing 2-1-1, callers can talk to someone who cares and knows where to go for help. It's a free and confidential call, and our nationally certified service specialists are fluent in English and Spanish, with translation services available in many other languages. In addition to connecting callers with hundreds of services, 2-1-1 also provides specialized information to veterans and military families, disaster victims, and individuals needing help with seasonal programs, such as school supplies or holiday gifts.

"2-1-1 Helpline expresses its sincere appreciation to the Tulsa Area United Way, the Department of Human Services, the Chapman Trust, and the donors who help support 2-1-1," says Jim Lyall, 2-1-1 Helpline Director. "As a non-profit program, 2-1-1 relies on the generosity of our funding partners."

"We also want to express appreciation to the state legislators whose vision brought 2-1-1 to Oklahoma," says Lyall. "Ron Peters, Lucky Lamons, Jeannie McDaniel and several others were instrumental in the process. And we would be remiss if we did not also thank the many organizations, most of which are non-profit or faith-based, that accept referrals from 2-1-1 and work closely with us to provide needed services."

In recognition of National 2-1-1 Day, everyone is encouraged to contact their senators and congressmen regarding the "Calling for 2-1-1 Act" which will provide much-needed federal funding for this critical service.

2-1-1 Helpline serves a 12-county area: Adair, Cherokee, Creek, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Osage, Rogers, Sequoyah, Tulsa and Wagoner. 2-1-1 is available 24 hours a day, every day, to 100% of Oklahoma through seven regional call centers. Resources are also available online at www.211tulsa.org. To make a contribution to 2-1-1, go to <http://www.211tulsa.org/support.htm>.

2-1-1 Helpline is a program of the Community Service Council of Greater Tulsa.

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