

NEWS RELEASE

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Shannon Hanson

United Way of East Central Iowa

shannon.hanson@uweci.org



Need Help? Call 2-1-1

Many people struggle when trying to find services they need on a daily basis, let alone during times of emergency. For the past 12 years, United Way 2-1-1 has proudly served as a point of contact in our community.

2-1-1 is a free health and human service information and referral hotline for those living in 39 counties in Eastern, Southeastern, and North Central Iowa. United Way 2-1-1 is available to everyone 24/7 and offers bilingual assistance. Since its inception in 2004, 2-1-1 has helped Iowans stay healthy and safe by answering more than 523,000 calls.

Trained and certified Information and Referral Specialists assist individuals and families in finding resources such as:

- Food pantry locations
- Clothing
- Rent assistance
- Shelter
- Free medical clinics
- Employment supports
- Tax preparation
- Transportation
- Utility bill assistance
- And much more

During the floods of June and July 2008, 2-1-1 played a key role by fielding more than 23,000 calls to help Cedar Rapids residents find disaster related services. With the current flood preparation and evacuation efforts, 2-1-1 specialists answered more than 1,000 calls in one day on Friday, September 23.

If you need help in this time of natural disaster, please call 2-1-1, 319-739-4211, or 1-866-469-2211. You can also search 2-1-1's database at 211iowa.org.

About United Way of East Central Iowa

United Way of East Central Iowa (UWECI) is a nonprofit organization and the second largest United Way in Iowa. Established in 1914, UWECI originally served four area nonprofits; that number has grown to more than 30 today. Together, UWECI and its partners serve Benton, Cedar, Iowa, Jones and Linn counties to help meet the communities' most critical needs in education, financial stability and health. For more information, please visit uweci.org.