

2-1-1 Marks 5 Years of Service

Dear Editor:

February 11, 2010 marks the 5th anniversary of the launch of 2-1-1, the United Way's statewide system that connects people in need with the health and human services, government assistance, and local community resources available to help. 2-1-1 has proven to be a highly efficient and effective public private partnership – one that was most recently leveraged by Governor Christie to provide information about our state's Haitian relief efforts.

Over the last year we have seen requests to 2-1-1 increase dramatically, exceeding 367,000 calls statewide. In Bergen County, call volume has increased 29 percent in the last year. Web traffic has exploded, increasing 60 percent in the same period. Many of our callers are seeking help for the very first time—with services they desperately need: food banks, utility assistance and eviction and foreclosure avoidance to prevent individual and family homelessness.

We want to thank the many donors, volunteers, and legislators who support the thousands of organizations to which we refer, including state programs that are the safety net of our community. We are grateful to all in our community who support food pantries, financial assistance programs, counseling, support groups, after-school and tutoring

programs and so many more vital resources. And, we are proud to live in a community where members work tirelessly to take care of those individuals who are most vulnerable and those who have been affected by the economic downturn.

Thank you, to all who support these vital programs and services in our Bergen County community. If you or someone you know needs help, call 2-1-1 or click onto nj211.org. It's easy to remember, free, confidential and available 24 hours a day, everyday.

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NJ 2-1-1 Partnership

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