



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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United Way of Lake County's 211 helps community members affected by the July 4th Highland Park parade shooting find resources

Lake County, IL (July 12, 2022) - The Highland Park parade shooting is estimated to have directly impacted more than 5,000 Lake County community members on July Fourth. Community members, victims and their families recovering from this traumatic event are urged to contact 211 to find the latest resources available to them, including mental health services, grief counseling, financial assistance, lost and found information, blood drive information, verified donation fundraisers and other resources as they emerge.

211 is Lake County's one-stop shop for finding help—where trained, experienced specialists can guide individuals and families to understand and navigate the many services and assistance available. 211 is free, confidential, 24/7 and multilingual with English and Spanish-speaking staff, and can provide assistance to other languages via interpreters in 150 languages. To access 211, dial 2-1-1 or text your zip code to 898211. Residents outside of Lake County who have been affected by the mass shooting can call 1-855-677-5253 toll free.

When disaster strikes a community, resources and information are broadcast across multiple websites and social media platforms; 211 serves to centralize and verify resources for victims, their families, community members and neighbors who wish to help. Visit 211LakeCounty.org under Hot Topics for a link to current resources specific to this event.

United Way of Lake County's 211 is collecting information about verified fundraisers and donation needs for victims and their families. Before bringing in-kind donations of goods to crisis centers, visit 211LakeCounty.org or contact 211 to determine what items are needed right now. Social media posts are often unchecked and not removed after crisis centers have met the needs of the victims with donations. Monetary donations are encouraged as they are best utilized for the immediate and ongoing needs of the victims as they recover from their losses.

"In a crisis, in a pandemic, in a disaster, 211 is here to help anyone in our community find help from verified sources," says Deanna Olmem, Manager of 211 Lake County. "Our 211 team has

been actively responding to this tragedy to ensure those affected get the support they need. 211LakeCounty.org provides real-time updates so that people have easy access to critical information and emerging resources in one place.”

Mental health professionals and clinicians who would like to offer services to Highland Park parade victims are encouraged to fill out the [survey](#) on 211LakeCounty.org under Hot Topics to be included on the website.

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ABOUT UNITED WAY OF LAKE COUNTY AND 211

United Way of Lake County’s mission is to unite leadership and resources to create lasting change that will improve lives in Lake County, Illinois. In 2019, United Way of Lake County launched 211, a free, confidential, 24-hour information and referral helpline, providing personalized help guiding individuals and families in Lake County to available health and human services. Lake County is the largest county in Illinois to have implemented 211 for its community members and has led the way to expand 211 coverage for all Illinoisans. Lake County’s 211 serves as a model program for the rest of the state.

Through the support of our partners and supporters, we are transforming communities by delivering programs and services that are timely, effective and scalable, with results we can measure. For more information, visit [LIVEUNITEDLakecounty.org](https://www.LiveUnitedLakeCounty.org) or [211LakeCounty.org](https://www.211LakeCounty.org).