



Hello,

Welcome to the 51st edition of our 211 newsletter, where we share information on 211 services and benefits, funding updates, and opportunities for you to become an advocate for 211.

FEBRUARY 11 IS 211 DAY!

2.1.1 Day

Celebrating 211 Day 2023!

211 Day is just around the corner! On Saturday, February 11, we'll be celebrating 211 Day and all the great work and impact 211 has made in Lake County and across the nation, including making nearly 200,000 connections to help in Lake County since its launch.

This year's theme is "**211 is Connection, 211 is Help.**" All year long, our trained expert navigators at Lake County's 211 connect people to locally available resources, including help with rent, food, utility bills, employment and job training, childcare and after-school programs, legal services, health and mental health assistance, and so much more.

Throughout the month of February, we will be posting on social media the many ways 211 provides hope and help every day. Will you share this information with your network so we can continue to spread awareness about this vital community service and offer life-changing support to even more people during their moments of need? Check out the **211 toolkit** on our website for a comprehensive source of print and digital promotional assets.

Help is 3 Numbers Away

Not sure when to call 911, 988 or 211?

Always call 911 if you have a police, fire or medical emergency. This includes situations that pose a danger to life, property or both, and requires immediate dispatch of police/sheriff, fire department or ambulance.

During a mental health emergency, when you want and need to call for help, you can call 911 or 988.

- **911** will connect you with emergency dispatchers. This is the option to select if you've harmed yourself or have immediate plans to attempt suicide or you see someone at risk of hurting themselves or others.
- **988** is the **Suicide and Crisis Lifeline** for those considering suicide or facing mental health issues, including those suffering from substance abuse, emotional distress or suicidal thoughts, and will connect you directly to trained counselors who assess your situation, provide support and connect you to resources if necessary. You can call or text the hotline at 9-8-8, or web chat at 988lifeline.org/chat, 24/7.

211 is the non-emergency helpline that provides information and referrals to a wide range of health and human services, including food, housing and shelter, utility assistance, healthcare services, and much more. 211 is also here to help if you need assistance locating long-term mental health resources, talking through a problem, or exploring mental health treatment options. Call 2-1-1 or text your zip code to 898211 to speak with a real person who can help, 24/7.



(Click the image for larger view.)

JANUARY
**HUMAN
TRAFFICKING** 
PREVENTION MONTH

United Against Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is the act of compelling someone to work for little or no pay through force, fraud or coercion. It's a fast-growing criminal enterprise that encompasses various forms of labor trafficking, sex trafficking and child exploitation. While illegal in all 50 states, it continues to occur in communities across the country—including here in Lake County.

United Way of Lake County is represented on the Lake County Human Trafficking Task Force and is working with community leaders and partners like A Safe Place to combat human trafficking, including mapping out the full range of services needed, what services and programs are currently available to survivors and determining gaps in access to programs and services that address their needs.

If you or someone you know is in danger, always call 911. If you believe you may have information about a trafficking situation, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline toll free at 888-373-7888. A Safe Place Lake County Crisis Center's Hotline is reachable 24/7 at 800-600-7233 or 847-249-4450.

To get connected to non-emergency support and resources, United Way of Lake County's 211 helpline is here for you. Dial 2-1-1 or text your zip code to 898211 to speak with a caring local expert who will guide you to support and resources. 211 is free and available 24/7 in your language. Calls to 211 are completely confidential and can be anonymous.

211 Testimonial

211 is a valuable resource for everyone, including service providers and local school districts. Listen in as a school community engagement coordinator shares how 211 helps her in her role connecting local families to essential services and the expert, caring help they need.



Supporter Spotlight

A BIG thank you to Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County (HFNLC) for supporting our year-end giving campaign! Their generous matching gift of \$10K directly supports our 211 helpline and helped us to raise more than double our goal for United Way of Lake County's education programs and 211. We are grateful to HFNLC and all our supporters for making it possible for us to make an even bigger impact on our local community to improve and save lives.



Our Community of 211 Donors

Thank you to our community partners and many individuals for their generous financial support to help us sustain 211 for Lake County. [View our list of funding partners here.](#)

How can you help?

1. Share this email and encourage your network to [opt-in to 211 communications](#).
2. [Help sustain 211 with an online donation](#).
3. Follow United Way of Lake County on social media to receive timelier 211 updates.



Best regards,

Deanna Olmem

Manager, 211 and Safe & Stable Families