



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **211info Receives Oregon Community Foundation Grant - Laying Groundwork for Statewide 2-1-1 System**

**Oregon - December 21, 2009** - 211info is the recipient of a \$25,000 grant from Eva Chiles Meyer #1 Fund and \$30,000 from the Janette G. Drew Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation that will strengthen Oregon's communities by laying the groundwork for a statewide 2-1-1 system.

"During the recent severe weather, a gentleman in east Multnomah County called 211info because he was unable to find transportation to warming shelters in Portland. One of our call center specialists was able to direct him to a shelter that had recently opened in his area -- helping him avoid spending one of the coldest nights of the year outside," says Liesl Wendt, 211info CEO. "The OCF grant will go a long way towards ensuring every Oregonian can easily find this kind of essential service by utilizing 2-1-1."

211info - Oregon and Southwest Washington's information hub for 2-1-1 - allows people to freely and easily get connected to essential services, while increasing the efficiency of those services. Like 9-1-1 is the core infrastructure for public safety, 2-1-1 is the core infrastructure for human services. Last year more than 100,000 people relied on 211info for referrals to food, health care, shelter, housing foreclosure assistance, and much more.

2-1-1 covers eleven counties in Oregon and Southwest Washington. The OCF grant funds a strategy to bring the service to all 36 counties. Currently, almost half of Oregonians remain without the service.

Along with helping callers in need, 211info provides information to human service professionals -- case managers, hospital staff, therapists, clergy -- who are burdened by heavy workloads, saving them much needed time and energy to focus on clients. 211info is also a critical link in regional disaster response, with 2-1-1 ready to serve as a source of up-to-date, authoritative information. This helps ease the burden on 9-1-1, allowing dispatchers to focus on life threatening emergencies.

The grant to 211info is one of the \$60 million worth of awards given by the Oregon Community Foundation each year. The Foundation makes grants through an application process that involves local citizens in the review and evaluation of requests for funds. Application material are available through the foundation's Portland office. Individuals or businesses interested in establishing a fund may contact the Portland office at 1221 SW Yamhill, Suite 100, Portland, OR 97205, 503-227-6846.

### **About 211info**

211info is Oregon and Southwest Washington's comprehensive hub for 2-1-1: a social services helpline and operates a comprehensive database of constantly updated community resources. The nonprofit 211info is built upon a 25 year history of providing people with free and easy access to the answers they need most. Last year, over 100,000 people turned to 211info for referrals to food, shelter, housing, foreclosure assistance, health care, and much more. 211info leads the expansion of 2-1-1 services throughout Oregon and partners with Washington state on 2-1-1 service delivery.

211info is a strategic partner of the United Way of the Columbia-Willamette. For more information, visit [www.211info.org](http://www.211info.org).

### **About The Oregon Community Foundation**

The mission of The Oregon Community Foundation is to improve life in Oregon and promote effective philanthropy. OCF works with individuals, families, businesses and organizations to create charitable funds to support the community causes they care about. Through these funds, OCF awards more than \$60 million annually in grants and scholarships.