**PRESS RELEASE for IMMEDIATE RELEASE** Submitted by: Kendall County 211, Melinda Kintz

**Kendall 211 Information and Referral hotline is LIVE!**

January 21, 2023 Just like you dial 9-1-1 for emergencies, you can now dial “2-1-1” in Kendall county to be connected to a live specialist, any time of the day or night, to assist you with your human service and resource needs.

With more than 1000 government, nonprofit, and faith -based organizations providing much needed services throughout Kendall County, it can be overwhelming and confusing to know where to start finding needed help. 2-1-1 is a free, anonymous place to start, with a trained specialist on hand to talk you through options. You can call 2-1-1 for help in over 150 languages and you can call 24/7/365.

94% of the country has 2-1-1 service which includes 63 counties in Illinois like neighbors Kane County, Grundy County and Will County.

Larry Nelson of Nelson Multimedia saw the need for 2-1-1 in Kendall County and took the initiative to spearhead the effort to make this valuable service available. Kendall County Government readily agreed to the need and will fund the project on a 4 year pilot basis. Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley offered a $6000 grant to cover the cost of all initial print materials.

 Amy Peterson, former Director of School Age Children for the Fox Valley Family YMCA was named Executive Director of 2-1-1 and will manage the program.

Kendall County 211 has contracted with PATH, an accredited call center in Bloomington, IL to receive calls and maintain a current database of resources. PATH is AIRS Certified and Red Cross and FEMA approved for disaster aftermath assistance.

2-1-1 can offer access to the following types of resources:

**Basic Human Needs:** food banks, clothing, rent and utility assistance.

**Physical and Mental Health**: crisis intervention services, support groups, counseling, drug and alcohol intervention, Medicare and Medicaid, services specific to cancer, early childhood development and more.

**Employment Support:** unemployment benefits, financial assistance, job training, transportation assistance and education programs.

**Senior Services:** adult day care, meals, prescription assistance and much more.

To learn more about Kendall 211, please contact Amy Peterson at amy.kendallcounty211@gmail.com