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Immediate Release

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Rhode Islanders asked to dial 2-1-1

Providence (April 1, 2010) – Rhode Islanders affected by flood waters are encouraged to dial 2-1-1.

United Way 2-1-1 in Rhode Island, the state's 24/7 helpline, is working in tandem with the R.I. Emergency Management Agency to assess the damage from flood waters in the state.

Informational referral specialists are matching those in need to the right human services agency as well as to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) so they can begin to seek federal aid.

“211 is playing an active role in doing a community assessment and helping with the recovery,” said Cristina Amedeo, director of *United Way 2-1-1 in Rhode Island*. “We are working with a myriad of agencies to ensure Rhode Islanders in need are getting connected to the right services.”

Those affected by the flooding can receive assistance and begin the process to seek federal aid by dialing 2-1-1.

About *United Way 2-1-1 in Rhode Island*

On June 1, 2007, *United Way 2-1-1 in Rhode Island* was launched as a telephone service to work similarly to 9-1-1 and 4-1-1. By dialing 2-1-1, you receive a 24/7/365 health and human services helpline staffed by information referral and state-health and insurance counseling specialists. The service is free, confidential and local, and in 175 languages and dialects. *United Way 2-1-1 in Rhode Island* is headquartered at United Way of Rhode Island. It is funded by United Way of Rhode Island with support from Hasbro's Children Fund, State of Rhode Island and administered by Family Service of R.I. For more information, visit www.211ri.org.

About United Way of Rhode Island

United Way of Rhode Island has been working to improve the quality of life in Rhode Island communities for over 80 years. UWRI's mission is to mobilize the caring power of the community to improve the lives of people in need and address the issues Rhode Islanders care most about. United Way's goal is to create long-lasting changes that prevent problems from happening in the first place. We believe that all Rhode Islanders deserve the opportunity to have a better life, as when any one of us succeeds, we all succeed. At United Way, we refer to this as advancing the common good. For more information, visit www.LIVEUNITEDri.org.

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