



NewsFlash

News and Updates from 2-1-1 Helpline

March 2008

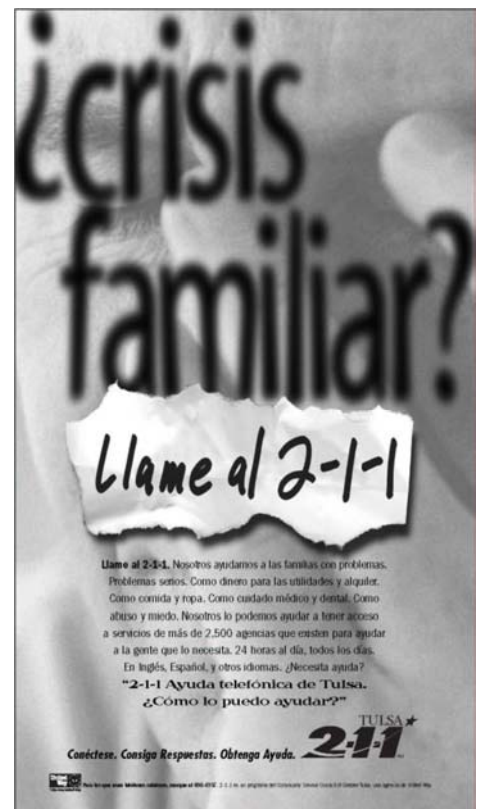
Serving Adair, Cherokee, Creek, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, southern Osage, Rogers, Sequoyah, Tulsa and Wagoner Counties

2-1-1 Helpline Promotes Bilingual Services, Plans to Expand Resource Staff

In March and April, 2-1-1 Helpline is running Spanish-language ads on area radio stations and in *Hispano de Tulsa*. The outreach is meeting with great results. In March, Spanish-language calls to 2-1-1 were up significantly over the previous two months, and an even greater increase has been seen compared to March 2007.

Bilingual service specialists are available to assist callers during weekday hours, and a tele-interpreter service is available to assist callers in virtually any language 24 hours a day, every day. As always, dialing 2-1-1 is a free, confidential call.

To better serve 2-1-1 Helpline's entire 12-county service area, four community-based resource specialists will be joining our staff this spring. These part-time positions will focus on reaching out to agencies in areas such as Claremore, Muskogee and Tahlequah, to expand our resource listings in those areas and to "spread the word" about 2-1-1. For more information about the open positions, please contact Keith Anderson at kanderson@csctulsa.org or 918-295-1228.



Agency Spotlight: Volunteer Central of Greater Tulsa

Since 1983, Volunteer Central of Greater Tulsa has been recruiting volunteers, channeling them toward local agencies' programs that meet community needs and offering community-wide recognition for their work. The Center also helps service organizations and corporations utilize volunteers more effectively.

"Tulsa has a rich history of volunteerism," says Volunteer Central Executive Director Brenda Michael-Haggard. Between 2004 and 2006, Tulsa benefited from approximately 228,000 volunteers who served more than 40.6 million hours per year. Tulsa ranks tenth in metropolitan volunteer rates and volunteer retention. In 2006, the estimated value of volunteer time was calculated at \$18.77 per hour, which translated to \$762 million offset for Tulsa area organizations.

Volunteer Central would like to expand its list of referral agencies and welcomes additional volunteers. If your organization is in need of volunteers, or if you would like to give of your time in local volunteer service, please visit www.1-800-volunteer.org or www.volunteercentraloftulsa.org. You can also contact Volunteer Central at 918-447-1888 or email brenda@volunteercentraloftulsa.org.

2-1-1 Helpline is a program of the Community Service Council of Greater Tulsa, a United Way member agency.



Notes and Notables

Help with Understanding the DTV Changeover

After February 17, 2009, full-power television stations will only broadcast digital signals. The Federal Communications Commission has established a website to help answer questions about the changeover to DTV at <http://www.dtv.gov/>.

Television sets that are connected to cable or satellite service will not require a converter box. Only television sets that use “rabbit ears” or a roof-mounted antenna will require the converter.

Between January 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009, all U.S. households will be eligible to request up to two coupons, worth \$40 each, to be used toward the purchase of up to two, digital-to-analog converter boxes. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has responsibility for administering the coupon program.

Upcoming Events

★ 25th Annual Friday Night Out (Formerly National Night Out) - Friday, April 18 6 - 8 p.m. Memorial Stadium, LaFortune Park, 5323 S. Yale Ave.

★ Tulsa Human Response Coalition Tabletop Exercise - Wednesday, April 23, 3 - 5 p.m. Family & Children’s Services, 650 South Peoria. Contact jlyall@csctulsa.org for information and to register.

★ Family Fun Fair - Saturday, April 26 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Christview Christian Church, 2525 South Garnett. Free immunizations, car seat checks, developmental screenings, book giveaways and more! Call 918-582-2556 or visit www.tulsaimmunize.org.

Find Help Online!

Don’t forget to go online to www.211tulsa.org to check out our “Find Help Online” web-based resource database. Remember, the Community Service Council stopped publishing the Blue Book in 2004, but the same information is now available online, and even better, it’s updated monthly, so you’re always guaranteed to get the “freshest” information, 24 hours a day.

Contact 2-1-1 Anytime!

2-1-1 Information Services
P.O. Box 52847
Tulsa, OK 74152

918-295-1284
211info@csctulsa.org
www.211tulsa.org

IRS Economic Stimulus Payments

Under the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008, more than 130 million American households will receive economic stimulus payments beginning in May 2008. However, these checks will only be sent to people who file a tax return for 2007.

If you are working with clients who normally do not file taxes because they are not required to do so, please refer them to the list of qualifying income below to see if they should file this year to receive the rebate. The amount of the rebate will be up to \$600 for individuals and \$1200 for couples filing jointly, and may include up to \$300 for each qualifying child.

Anyone who had at least \$3,000 in qualifying income in 2007 may qualify to receive a rebate check. Qualifying income can include:

- ★ Earned income (from wages, salaries, tips, and self-employment)
- ★ Social Security (not including SSI)
- ★ Tier 1 Railroad Benefits
- ★ Veteran’s Benefits (including disability and pension or survivor’s benefits)
- ★ Nontaxable Combat Pay (if included as earned income by taxpayer)

If you have already filed your 2007 tax return, but did not claim all of the qualifying income listed above and your income was not equal to or greater than \$3,000, you may file an amended return on Form 1040X and include the additional qualifying income.

If you are only filing taxes to receive your rebate check, you may likely use Form 1040A and write “Stimulus Payment” at the top of the form. Line 14a of the Form 1040A is where you should report your qualifying Social Security benefits, Railroad benefits, and veteran’s benefits.

For more information, you can call 1-866-234-2942 or log on to the IRS web site at: <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=177937,00.html>.

For information about free tax preparation assistance, dial 2-1-1.

