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Local 211 Center officially starts today

YORKTOWN -- "LifeStream 211 Information and Referral, how may I help you?"

That's what callers will hear when they call 211 from any home, business or cell phone in East Central Indiana beginning Monday. Information and Referral Specialists at the LifeStream 211 Center will be available at that number to provide information on health and human service needs such as food, counseling, employment, health care, support groups, housing, shelter, legal aid, clothing, education and more.

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The 211 Center will be able to provide information, phone numbers and in some cases connect callers directly to agencies and organizations who can provide help to individuals of all ages.

"In years to come, everyone will be as familiar with 211 as they are with 911," Kenneth D. Adkins, president/CEO of LifeStream Services, said in a press release. "I know of many needs out there that are unmet simply because people do not know where to turn for help. This is the answer."

Adkins will be among those helping to celebrate the opening of the center today at LifeStream's headquarters in Yorktown during a program at 2:11 p.m. At that time, 211 Center personnel will be recognized, a plaque will be presented by the Indiana 211 Partnership and the 2-1-1 local advisory committee will be recognized.

LifeStream 211 is part of the Indiana 211 Partnership, a growing statewide network to provide help with health and human service needs.

The 211 network was first launched by United Way in Metropolitan Atlanta (GA) in 1997, and since that time has grown to include 39 states and the District of Columbia. About 53 percent of the U.S. population is currently covered through the 211 system.

In Indiana, 70 percent of Hoosiers have access to the system with the launch of the new LifeStream 211 regional center, according to Lucinda Nord, executive director of the Indiana 211 Partnership.

The Indiana 211 Partnership fully endorsed LifeStream as a regional center in January.

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Any callers who experience problems with reaching the center should report those issues to LifeStream at (800) 589-1121.

Other Indiana 211 centers have been established in Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, Dillsboro, Columbus, Kokomo, Lafayette, South Bend, Elkhart, Hammond, Evansville and Terre Haute. Other centers are also in the process of being established.

For more information on Indiana 211, call 211 or visit www.IN211.org.

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