

211 Northwest Florida Proclamation – 211 Day 2024

WHEREAS, 211 Northwest Florida grew out of First Call for Help, and after Hurricane Ivan in 2004 gradually evolved into 211 Northwest Florida in 2010; and

WHEREAS, as of October 2022, 211 Northwest Florida added Okaloosa and Walton counties, now providing services to all 10 counties of Northwest Florida: Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Walton, and Washington; and

WHEREAS, during the year 2023, 211 Northwest Florida answered 37,953 calls serving 69,233 human beings in our community; and

WHEREAS, from 2019 to 2023, 211 Northwest Florida served over 336,419 human beings in our community; and

WHEREAS, collectively the 211 network in the United States has responded to more than 18 million calls for help each year; and

WHEREAS, 211 Northwest Florida's caring and trained staff continue to be that beacon of hope providing crisis support and resources when people are overwhelmed and do not know where to turn, and 211 Northwest Florida is available with live help any time of the day or night, seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, 211 Northwest Florida's MYFLVET or Florida Veterans Support Line provides peer-to-peer support, and helps veterans to readjust, providing linkage to services for veterans and their families, by a veteran; and

WHEREAS, 211 Northwest Florida joined the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the Florida 988 coalition in October 2022 to serve those experiencing a suicide or mental health crisis with confidential, anonymous, free phone-based access to brief crisis counseling, with connections to emergency services and more comprehensive community-based mental health and substance abuse services; and

WHEREAS, 211 Northwest Florida has one of the highest 988 calls answered rate in the state of Florida at 97 percent, greatly exceeding the state average.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Chipley that, February 11, 2024, is 211 Awareness Day.

And urges all citizens to be aware that if they are overwhelmed and in crisis or just need to talk, 211 Northwest Florida is available any time, day or night, and that 211 Northwest Florida staff can provide referrals for mental health counseling, substance abuse, health care, employment, food assistance, daycare, support groups, volunteering, free income tax income preparation and much more.

By its Mayor, Tracy L. Andrews

Attest:

By the City Clerk, Sherry Snell