FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Do you know whom to call for storm assistance?

OKLAHOMA CITY – 2-1-1 is the number to call for verified and accurate resources in the wake of storms and disasters, like temporary shelters, donation drop-off locations, volunteer opportunities and agencies taking displaced pets. 2-1-1 is available 24/7 to assist callers with health and human service needs. HeartLine is a member of several disaster relief groups, ensuring that callers to 2-1-1 receive the most updated, accurate information about resources available in the wake of disasters.

Oklahoma VOAD

HeartLine is a long-time, active member of Oklahoma Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster. Oklahoma VOAD is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization that builds resiliency in communities within Oklahoma. It serves as the forum where organizations share knowledge and resources throughout the disaster cycle – preparation, response, recovery and mitigation – to help disaster survivors and their Oklahoma communities.

Oklahoma VOAD brings together voluntary organizations active in disaster services in an effort to foster more effective response to the people of Oklahoma in time of disaster. Oklahoma VOAD was founded in the simple belief that the time to prepare for the next disaster is now.

About 2-1-1

2-1-1 is a free, 24/7 phone service that provides Oklahomans access to information about health and human services simply by dialing 2-1-1. Call specialists listen carefully to callers and make in-depth assessment and referral plans, providing callers with one or more options to meet their needs. The highly trained call specialists at 2-1-1 are available seven days a week, 365 days a year. 2-1-1 is operated in the state of Oklahoma by two local nonprofit agencies, HeartLine and the Tulsa Community Service Council.

An average of one in five households in Oklahoma utilizes 2-1-1 for access to basic human needs such as food, clothes, shelter, health care and mental health care.

Studies show that on average, people make seven to eight calls before reaching the service organization they need. The 2-1-1 referral process utilizes a comprehensive computerized database of thousands of public and nonprofit health and human service programs. “Just as 9-1-1 has become an essential part of
fire, police and medical response, 2-1-1 helps meet non-emergency health and human service needs. 2-1-1 plays a vital role in connecting Oklahomans to help, hope and information,” says HeartLine’s Executive Director, Kelly Nutter.

**About HeartLine**

HeartLine is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has been serving Oklahoma since 1971, and provides access to health and human services, suicide prevention outreach programs, listening and crisis intervention services. Call specialists are available 24/7 through HeartLine’s phone-based services, including 2-1-1, the Oklahoma Problem Gambling Helpline: 1-800-522-4700, 848-CARE, the Reachout Hotline: 1-800-522-9054 and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK. HeartLine is a United Way Partner Agency. www.heartlineoklahoma.org.

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