



Helping Children and Adults Live, Work and Grow in Our Community

February 8, 2010

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Last year, over 26,000 calls were made to 211 SLO Hotline by people in need of vital social service resources. Of those calls, one-third were crisis and support related, handled by trained volunteers available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Without a doubt, 211 SLO Hotline provided a critical service to our community. It is a particularly precious resource to those that Transitions-Mental Health Association (TMHA) serves: our friends and family who have a mental illness.

When we learned that 211 SLO Hotline would no longer operate after December, we began to work within our nonprofit community to find ways to continue this valuable service. We are happy to announce that 211 SLO Hotline will live on, now as two separate programs. United Way of San Luis Obispo County has agreed to continue the 211 service (with the help of a \$20,000 grant from PG&E and \$20,000 match from United Way SLO's board) by contracting with Interface Children Family Services of Ventura County.

Additionally, TMHA hired 211 SLO Hotline's trained staff and relies on trained volunteers to operate a 24-hour stigma reduction, mental health and suicide prevention phone line: 800/549-4499. And, because of the organization's long history and community involvement, the program's name will be SLO Hotline.

SLO Hotline will be staffed by volunteers and employees 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The first project SLO Hotline will undertake as a TMHA program will be as part of a new media campaign called SLOtheStigma. The campaign is designed to reduce the stigma of mental illness and guide people to mental health resources in the county. For more information, visit SLOtheStigma.org.

We are also proud to continue a fabulous event: Bowl-A-Thon! Now is the time to pull your team together and shine up your bowling ball. The fun begins the third weekend in April and continues into the first weekend in May. We'll be bowling in Paso Robles, Pismo Beach, and Santa Maria, so all can join in! Watch our web site – T-MHA.org – for more information.

Lastly, we would like to thank you for your support of our work. We could not do what we do without you, and we look forward to continued collaboration with you as we move in this new direction!

Sincerely,

Jill Bolster-White, Executive Director
Transitions Mental Health Association

Linda McGregor, Executive Director
211 SLO Hotline