



211 PALM BEACH AND TREASURE COAST

Awarded \$1 Million from the State of Florida for its New Headquarters Building

The Board and staff of 211 Palm Beach and Treasure Coast are thrilled to announce that the State of Florida has awarded the nonprofit organization 1 million dollars to support the construction of a new 12,000-square-foot facility to house its staff and volunteers. This will allow 211 to better meet the community's growing needs as it conducts its life-saving work as a *Crisis Hotline and Community Helpline*.

"The granting of this award demonstrates the high regard that the governor and legislators of the State of Florida hold for 211 and its impact on the local community," stated **Lee Williams**, Board Chair of 211 Palm Beach and Treasure Coast. "With a 56% increase in suicide-related requests for help over the past decade and a growing population, it is critical that we have a facility that can house the additional staff needed to address the growing needs of our community."

"211 made a good case for State funding," explained **Senator Gayle Harrell**, who co-sponsored the award. "Given that the new 988 *Federal Suicide Hotline* calls from Palm Beach and Treasure Coast residents are directed to 211, the volume of calls has already increased significantly and will continue to do so — it made sense to help them build a new facility."

Representative Dana Trubusy also co-sponsored the award and added her thoughts: "I have been a long-time advocate for 211 and have witnessed their growth in meeting the community's needs over the years. The current metal-shelled building has reached the end of its useful life, is too small for the growing staff, and is not hurricane-rated. This makes it difficult to adequately handle the over 100,000 requests of help 211 receives each year."

Sharon L'Herrou, 211's President and CEO, described the breadth of the organization. "211's highly trained staff not only respond to suicide, substance abuse, and natural disaster crises but also provide care coordination services for the community's most vulnerable citizens — the elderly, veterans, jobless, economically disadvantaged, victims of crime, and more. We are honored that the State of Florida chose to help us fund this critically-needed new facility."

The \$1 million infusion of State funds is a significant boost for 211's capital campaign, allowing it to reach the halfway mark of its \$6 million campaign to build the new building. The private sector has already been generous in providing funds, most recently through its highly successful *Spring Celebration*, which raised over \$500,000 towards the cause. To watch an impactful three-minute video about 211 and

learn more about the capital campaign visit 211palmbeach.org/capital-campaign.

211 Palm Beach and Treasure Coast is the only free and confidential *Crisis Hotline and Community Helpline* serving the 2.2 million residents of Palm Beach County and the Treasure Coast that provides suicide prevention, crisis intervention, information, assessment and referral to community services for people of all ages. 211 is available for those experiencing a crisis, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Demand for 211 Palm Beach and Treasure Coast's services has increased significantly, causing it to outgrow its current headquarters space. The needs are expanding even faster than population growth, and the introduction of the federal *988 Suicide Prevention Initiative* is expected to drive call volume and the subsequent need for additional staff and space to unprecedented levels. For these reasons, 211 plans to build a roughly 12,000-square-foot hurricane-rated building on its current site to house approximately 150 employees. The total project cost is \$6 million.

For more information visit 211palmbeach.org or 211treasurecoast.org.