

Press Release Text

New Information and Assistance service available for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their families have a new information and assistance resource created specifically with their needs in mind, IDDHelp.org. The Productive Living Board for St. Louis County Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, St. Charles Developmental Disabilities Resource Board, and the St. Louis City Office for Developmental Disability Resources are partnering with United Way of Greater St. Louis in launching this regional resource.

IDDHelp.org provides flexible options for getting connected to services via Web search, email, or phone. When a caller dials 877-256-2202 looking for solutions, a trained Community Connector will be there to listen and to help. “Our community has been seeking a streamlined system to meet the needs that arise when supporting someone with a developmental disability,” County Executive Steve Stenger said. “We are pleased to be joining creative forces with our neighboring service providers to offer a solution that focuses on the people we care about and advocate for every day.”

Anyone who has tried to locate resources for themselves or someone they care about knows that our region is fortunate to have many quality agencies and supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. There are over 24,000 individuals with disabilities throughout the St. Louis Region, and hundreds of agencies that offer an array of services. Community Connectors are available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

“What has been lacking is a centralized, coordinated system to help people, whether a person with a developmental disability, a parent, a service provider, or a neighbor not only understand the options that are available, but how to successfully access them. IDDHelp.org is designed to find solutions. A key element is an experienced, compassionate person, a Community Connector, with whom people can share their unique story,” Becky Herschbach, Executive Director of the Productive Living Board said. “IDDHelp.org will empower individuals by connecting them more seamlessly to resources, and by equipping them with not only information, but the skills to navigate the system successfully.”

IDDHelp.org is powered by United Way 2-1-1 and offers a streamlined, one-stop connection to resources and help for a variety of needs, including transportation, employment opportunities, continuing education, Medicaid, recreational programs, family support services and more.

“Finding the right resource or help can be challenging and frustrating for any person or family,” said Orvin Kimbrough, president and CEO of United Way of Greater St. Louis. “United Way 2-1-1 brings technology and more than 10 years of experience in connecting people to help. This regional collaboration represents a step forward in creating a community-driven ecosystem of supports that can be more easily navigated by anyone at any time.”

About United Way of Greater St. Louis

United Way of Greater St. Louis mobilizes the community with one goal in mind — helping people live their best possible lives. Located throughout 16 counties in Missouri and Illinois, United Way helps one in three people in the region build a foundation for a good quality of life through basic needs, financial

stability, education, health and strong communities. For more information, contact 314-421-0700 or visit www.HelpingPeople.org.