



NJ 2-1-1 Partnership

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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NJ 2-1-1 Partnership Announces Hire of Joseph M. Geleta as New Executive Director

WHIPPANY, NJ - March 9, 2015 - The NJ 2-1-1 Partnership today announced that Joseph M. Geleta, has been named Executive Director of the organization following a nationwide search. He will start on April 1. He replaces founding executive director, Laura Zink Marx, who left the organization to lead the United Way of North Carolina as its new President and CEO. Geleta joins NJ 2-1-1 after retiring from the New Jersey State Police following a 30-year career, holding positions as State Police Academy Trainer, Assistant Chief with the Communications Bureau, and culminating with his most recent role as Recovery Bureau Captain/Bureau Chief for New Jersey's Super Storm Sandy efforts.

"We are thrilled to have someone with the depth of experience that Joseph Geleta brings to the office of executive director," said Board President Gary Shaw. "He has worked closely with NJ 2-1-1, especially with the NJ Storm Sandy Recovery efforts and offers a strategic vision for the organization that we feel will take 2-1-1 to a new level."

"I am honored to take on the responsibility of executive director for NJ 2-1-1," said Geleta, a resident of New Egypt. "I was fortunate to have a close working relationship with Laura Marx and admire all she did to make this organization an important resource for New Jersey residents in need. I believe that there is still more to be done to make connecting to services and support simple and easy. I look forward to working with the NJ 2-1-1 Board, staff and community partners, as well as our funders, to grow 2-1-1's capacity and to make 2-1-1 the first place you call for information and assistance."

As the Recovery Bureau, Captain/Bureau Chief at the New Jersey State Police, Geleta supervised more than 60 personnel and oversaw distribution of millions of Super Storm Sandy recovery dollars. He maintained lines of communication between Federal, State and local Agency partners around recovery operations.

He also served as Communications Bureau, Lieutenant/Assistant Bureau Chief from 2009 to 2013 where he managed over 200 public safety tele communicators assigned to the 9-1-1 call center and dispatch units across the state.

Enhancing awareness is a key component of Geleta's plans for NJ 2-1-1. He wants to increase NJ 2-1-1's role in the community with added exposure through advertising and promotion.

Geleta holds an Associate of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from Middlesex County College (1991), a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Services from Thomas Edison State College (1993); a Master of Arts degree in Education from Seton Hall University (1998) and a Graduate Certificate in Criminal Justice: FBI National Academy 250th Session (2012).

About 2-1-1:

2-1-1 is a free 24-hour/365 days a year - statewide service that puts people in need of assistance in touch with people who can help. It is a system that is easy to use, confidential, multi-lingual, and accessible to individuals with disabilities.

With just one call to 2-1-1 or a visit to nj211.org, there is a LIVE connection to a warm and compassionate call specialist who is experienced in assessing need and connecting to resources - whether it is for an individual concern or during a community-wide emergency.

2-1-1 receives over 300,000 calls a year.