



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**August 23, 2010**

**HelpLine Celebrates 40 Years of Success and Service  
in Delaware and Morrow Counties**

Delaware, Ohio – Since 1970, HelpLine of Delaware and Morrow Counties, Inc. (HelpLine) has responded to nearly half a million callers in need of emotional, financial and information assistance. This year, HelpLine will celebrate 40 Years as ‘A Generational Gem’ during its Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 16, 2010, 6:00 p.m., Ohio Wesleyan University, Benes Room, 40 Rowland Avenue, Delaware, Ohio. Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Director, Angela Cornelius Dawson, will deliver the keynote address. The event is sponsored by Columbus State Community College.

HelpLine formed in January 1996 with the merger of Delaware County-based Help Anonymous and HopeLine of Morrow County. In this same year, Connections Volunteer Center was incorporated under HelpLine, making it a tri-union. Help Anonymous began in 1970 when five women envisioned a hotline as a means for providing support and alternatives for single pregnant women. HopeLine began in 1980 in response to the need to provide hotline services and support 24-hours a day. Within several years of inception, both agencies were providing 24-hour hotline services to residents of each county, primarily through volunteers in very small, donated spaces.

Since its founding, HelpLine is credited for many firsts including the first agency in the State of Ohio to join providers of the 1-800-SUICIDE talk network - the only suicide network to cover the United States, the first in the State of Ohio to launch 2-1-1 – the universal access number for health and human service information – in Delaware and Morrow Counties, and the first-ever, centralized volunteer center in Delaware County.

“The agency’s history is a story of growth and innovation, fusing the collective strength of two county-wide agencies while pioneering new technologies to assist in around the clock access to health and human service information,” said Sue Hanson, Executive Director of HelpLine.

“From its very inception, HelpLine has remained committed to the highest level of service and steadfast in adhering to its founding principles of care and respect, excellence, education and volunteerism.”

Today, HelpLine responds to an average of 12,000 calls each year. Additionally, in this fiscal year more than 15,000 referrals were made to community agencies while more than 525 households were assisted with utilities, rent and mortgage through the Ohio Housing Trust Fund – available from January to May 2010. Similarly, HelpLine staff has continued to expand and now includes 25 full and part-time professional staff and over thirty active volunteers who provide hotline crisis management, information & referral services, sexual assault advocacy, and prevention and community education programs.

“The spirit of ethical practice, extension of oneself in the care of others and respect for the dignity of all served represent the core of HelpLine. From individuals to families, and from youth to the elderly,

HelpLine strives to empower consumers with the ability to lead productive, self-sufficient lives as valued and contributing members of the community,” said Hanson.

A variety of events have been scheduled this fall as part of the celebration, including the HelpLine Jazz and Silent Auction event in October. For more information on upcoming commemorative events, please visit [www.helplinedelmor.org](http://www.helplinedelmor.org) or call 740-363-1835.

### **About HelpLine**

HelpLine of Delaware and Morrow Counties, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization that provides a 24-hour support and information line, prevention education and serves as the area’s only volunteer center. Committed to empowering people through knowledge, support and resources, HelpLine responds to the emotional, financial and informational needs of the Delaware and Morrow County communities. HelpLine is a contract provider of the Delaware-Morrow Mental Health & Recovery Services Board and partially funded by the Council for Older Adults. A United Way Agency, HelpLine is accredited by the American Association of Suicidology, National Alliance of Information & Referral Systems and certified by the Ohio Department of Mental Health. For more information, please visit: [www.HelpLinedelmor.org](http://www.HelpLinedelmor.org).

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