



For Immediate Release  
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Contact: Art Brodsky  
301-908-7715  
Aaron Holman  
202-292-4603

### **E9-1-1 Institute Honors 9-1-1 CARES for Community Service**

The E-911 Institute in Washington, D.C., has named 911 CARES, founded by Kevin Willett of Redwood City, CA, as the winner of its 2007 award for Community Service.

Willett, a public safety dispatcher, trainer and consultant, formed the group after Sept. 11 to offer emotional and financial support to emergency communicators. In an occupation that has become increasingly more stressful, 911 CARES is dedicated to providing free critical incident stress debriefings for those in need and offering stress management education. They also provide appreciation, recognition, public education and emotional or financial support to 9-1-1 professionals nationwide.

The organization helps large groups of dispatchers, such as those who were devastated after the ordeal of Hurricane Katrina, and is generous as well to individuals, such as helping out the family of a burn victim in Illinois or the family of an emergency dispatcher who lost her entire home and its' contents to fire.

Gregory L. Rohde, executive director of the Institute, said, "Too often we forget the incredible emotional and physical toll that is taken on emergency communicators. 911 CARES has helped many dispatchers and call takers around the country to cope with the very stressful environment in which they work."

The award will be presented at a March 13 ceremony in Washington, D.C.

**About the E911 Institute.** The E9-1-1 Institute ([www.e911institute.org](http://www.e911institute.org)) is a not-for-profit organization which provides administrative and policy support to the Congressional E9-1-1 Caucus. The purpose of the E9-1-1 Institute is to promote public education and awareness of E9-1-1 and emergency communications issues and serve the Congressional E9-1-1 Caucus as a clearinghouse of information on E9-1-1 and emergency communications issues. Gregory L. Rohde, former Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, serves as the E9-1-1 Institute's Executive Director.

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