



hartford region

Contact:

Shari Smith
YWCA Hartford Region
135 Broad Street
Hartford, CT 06105
sharis@ywcahartford.org
(P) 860-525-1163, ext. 258
(F) 860-543-8919

January 7th, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Free Income Tax Preparation Services Available to the Community

YWCA Hartford Region Serves as a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Site

Hartford, CT-Beginning January 30th and running through April 15th, YWCA Hartford Region will serve as a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) preparation site and offer free income tax preparation for individuals and families with low-to-moderate income. The VITA program is led by the Hartford Asset Building Collaborative (HABC) in the Greater Hartford Area. This year YWCA will be one of 22 sites in the region to offer free tax preparation services.

Trained community volunteers sponsored by the YWCA Hartford Region are certified to help prepare basic tax returns. They help with special credits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), and Child Tax Credit. Returns are processed electronically, so taxpayers can receive their tax refund quickly and have it directly deposited into their bank account.

Due to the complexity of the forms and eligibility requirements, the EITC is often unclaimed. EITC credits average \$1,400 per household. Individuals who usually do not file because they do not owe any taxes are encouraged to visit a VITA site to find out if they qualify to receive a tax refund under the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) program.

In 2009, the Hartford VITA program served 5,365 filers resulting in a savings of almost \$1 million in tax preparation fees. \$12 million in total tax refunds and \$1.5 million in other credits were claimed. In addition, \$2.9 million of earned income tax credits were claimed.

Hours are Tuesdays 3 p.m.-7p.m., Wednesdays 5 p.m.-8p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m.-12 p.m. To schedule an appointment and for more information please call 211 (Infoline), or the YWCA at (860) 525-1163 ext. 258.

###

*Established in 1867, YWCA Hartford Region is the third oldest affiliate of the YWCA USA, a women's membership movement dedicated to **eliminating racism, empowering women and***

***promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.** YWCA Hartford Region provides programs and services in the greater Hartford area including child care, supportive housing, teen leadership development, racial justice awareness, financial literacy, and economic empowerment.*