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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Volunteers needed! Help Families File their Taxes for Free at YWCA
Hartford Region's VITA site***

Hartford, CT-YWCA Hartford Region is looking for volunteers for the 2016 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Campaign, in partnership with United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut, The Village for Families & Children, and many area municipal, corporate and nonprofit partners. VITA volunteers prepare and electronically file federal and state tax returns for FREE for low-to-moderate income households making up to \$54,000. VITA also ensures that filers avoid costly filing and preparation fees and connects filers with other resources to become financially secure.

No experience is necessary. Volunteer opportunities include tax preparers and greeters. Tax preparers must complete training, which is provided. Greeters help tax filers complete paperwork and make sure they have the necessary documents. YWCA's VITA site is located at 135 Broad Street, Hartford, CT.

VITA is a vital program for low-to-moderate families and helps build a stronger community since refund dollars are often invested locally. Volunteers help families receive the refunds and credits they've earned, such as EITC. Credits such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit often go unclaimed simply because people don't know they're eligible. EITC credits averaged \$1,799 per household last year at YWCA's VITA site. Individuals who usually do not file because they do not owe any taxes are encouraged to visit a VITA site. They may qualify for a tax refund under the EITC program. Taxpayers can receive their tax refund quickly through direct deposit into their personal checking account or on a pre-paid debit card.

In 2015, YWCA served 234 households - resulting in \$483,492 in state and federal refunds to working families. In total, nearly 11,000 taxpayers received more than \$28 million in refunds and credits last year through the United Way-supported VITA program in central and northeastern Connecticut.

For more information about volunteering with YWCA's site, contact Mike Fournier at MikeF@ywc Hartford.org or (860) 525-1163.

For more information about VITA, visit: <https://unitedwayinc.org/freetaxrefunds>.

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Established in 1867, YWCA Hartford Region is the third oldest affiliate of YWCA, 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 childcare, supportive housing, teen leadership development, racial justice awareness, financial literacy, and economic empowerment. For more information, visit www.ywcahartford.org and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).