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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Volunteers needed for YWCA Hartford Region's VITA site

Hartford, CT-YWCA Hartford Region is looking for volunteers for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. VITA volunteers help to prepare and file tax returns for FREE for low- to moderate-income households to ensure they receive their eligible refunds. VITA also ensures that these families avoid costly filing and preparation fees.

Credits such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit often go unclaimed because of the lack of awareness of who is eligible. EITC credits averaged \$1,654 per household last year at YWCA's VITA site.

VITA is a vital program for low-income families in our community. Volunteers help families receive the credits they are owed. 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 for a tax refund under the EITC program. Taxpayers can receive their tax refund quickly and have it directly deposited into their bank account.

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

In 2014, YWCA served 258 households - resulting in \$461,472 in state and federal refunds to working families. Refunds included \$152,159 in EITC and \$71,019 in child tax credits.

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

For more information about VITA, which is a partnership of United Way of Central and Northeastern CT, The Village for Families & Children, and many area municipal and nonprofit partners, visit: www.unitedwayinc.org/VITAvolunteer.

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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.ywahartford.org and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).