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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Free Tax Preparation Available at YWCA
YWCA Hartford Region's Free Tax Assistance Site Opens January 31st

Hartford, CT-Beginning January 31st and running through April 15, 2015, YWCA Hartford Region will serve as a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site. VITA offers free income tax preparation for individuals and families with household incomes up to \$53,000 annually.

IRS-certified community volunteers prepare and electronically file federal and Connecticut state tax returns and help individuals and families receive their proper credits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit. Refunds generated by EITCs often go unclaimed due to the complexity of the forms and lack of awareness about who is eligible. EITC credits averaged \$1,600 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 to find out if they qualify for a tax refund under the EITC program. Taxpayers can receive their tax refunds quickly and have their refunds directly deposited into their bank accounts.

In 2014, YWCA served 250 filers -resulting in \$461,472 in state and federal refunds to local families. Refunds were generated from \$152,159 in EITC and \$71,019 in child tax credits.

Tax preparers will be available by appointment only at 135 Broad Street, Hartford, CT 06105 on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 5:00 – 8:00 PM and Saturdays 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Spanish speaking tax preparers are available upon request. Please call United Way 2-1-1, a free, multilingual helpline open 24-hours a day, seven days a week, or YWCA at (860) 525-1163, ext. 129 to schedule an appointment to receive further information about the program.

Additionally, individuals or families with a household income up to \$60,000 may file their own taxes for free online at: www.myfreetaxes.com/unitedway.

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/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](#).