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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***Free Tax Preparation Available for Working Families at  
YWCA Hartford Region***

**Hartford, CT-** Beginning January 30<sup>th</sup> and running through April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016, YWCA Hartford Region will serve as a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site, in partnership with United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut and The Village for Families & Children. VITA connects hard-working individuals and families with opportunities to keep more money in their wallets through free income tax preparation for those with household incomes up to \$54,000. VITA helps working families get ahead financially, pay down debt and save for the future.

Trained, IRS-certified community volunteers make the process easy. They prepare and electronically file federal and Connecticut state tax returns and help individuals and families claim the refunds and credits they've earned, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit. Refunds generated by EITC often go unclaimed due to the complexity of the forms and lack of awareness about who is eligible. EITC credits averaged \$1,799 per household last year at YWCA's VITA site.

All individuals are encouraged to visit a VITA site to find out if they qualify for EITC. Only four out of five workers who are eligible actually claim their EITC. Taxpayers can receive their tax refunds quickly through direct deposit into a personal checking account or on a prepaid debit card.

Volunteer 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. 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 or to receive further information about the program. You may also visit [ww.211ct.org](http://ww.211ct.org) to make an appointment online.

Additionally, individuals or families with a household income up to \$62,000 may file their own taxes for free online at: [www.myfreetaxes.com](http://www.myfreetaxes.com)

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

For more information about free tax preparation and other VITA sites in the area visit:  
[www.unitedwayinc.org/freetaxrefunds](http://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](http://www.ywcahartford.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).