



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VITA Sites Open, Offering Help to Many Who May Overlook Valuable Tax Credits

Corpus Christi, TX (January 21, 2011) – Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites open their doors Saturday offering free help to individuals who earned less than \$50,000 in 2010 to electronically file their income tax returns. Volunteers are trained to identify and process the often overlooked Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC) which can make life a little easier for workers struggling to make ends meet in today's tight economy.

In recognition of January 28, 2011 as EITC Awareness Day, the IRS and local partners participating in the VITA effort encourage local citizens to determine if they may be eligible for up to \$5,600 in EITC credits and seek assistance if they need help to claim them.

"According to City-Data.com, the median average income for Corpus Christi households was just over \$42,000," states Donna Hurley, community services director, United Way of the Coastal Bend and CASH Coalition member. "Half of our area's residents qualify for the VITA program and the IRS estimates one in four eligible taxpayers could miss out on the valuable tax credits because they don't know about it." Many people may qualify for EITC for the first time because their income declined, their marital status changed or they added children to their families, continues Hurley

Eligible taxpayers can get their EITC only if they file federal income tax returns – even if they are not otherwise required to file – and specifically claim the credit.

The Coastal Bend CASH Coalition, a VITA collaborative partnership of United Way of the Coastal Bend, Coastal Community and Teachers Credit Union, Corpus Christi Housing Authority, Del Mar College, Goodwill Industries, the Internal Revenue Service, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and Texas A&M-Kingsville operate free tax preparation sites throughout the community during the tax filing season.

For a complete site schedule and locations visit www.uwcb.org

Sites opening Saturday, January 22 through Tuesday, April 18 include:

- 1. Boys & Girls Club, Greenwood**
Saturdays (10am – 3pm)
Tuesdays & Thursdays (3-8pm)
- 2. Coastal Community & Teachers Credit Union, 1909 Trojan (near Moody HS)**
Saturdays (9am – 12pm)
Mondays & Wednesdays (3-7pm)

3. **Goodwill Industries**, Kingsville, TX
Saturdays (9am – 12pm)
Tuesdays & Wednesdays (3-7pm)

Other sites with different opening dates:

4. **Goodwill Industries**, S. Port Ave. – Opening January 24 through April 18
Mondays & Wednesdays (1:30 – 6:30pm)
Saturdays (9am-12pm)
5. **Goodwill Industries**, Flour Bluff – Opening January 25 through April 18
Tuesdays & Thursdays (4-8pm)
Sundays (1-5pm)
6. **Del Mar College**, Venters Business Building – Opening February 1 through April 18
Tuesday & Thursdays (2-6:30pm)
7. **Corpus Christi Housing Authority**, 1435 Sulaine Place – Opening February 1 through April 18
Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays (1-4pm)

To help accurately determine their EITC eligibility and prepare their returns, taxpayers should bring:

- Photo identification
- Valid Social Security cards for the taxpayer, spouse and dependents
- Birth dates for primary, secondary and dependents on the tax return
- Wage and earning statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099)
- A copy of last year's federal and state returns, if available
- Bank routing numbers and account numbers for direct deposit
- Other relevant information about income and expenses
- Total paid for day care
- Day care provider's identifying number.

About United Way of the Coastal Bend

United Way of the Coastal Bend is improving lives by mobilizing the caring power of community. Focusing on the basic building blocks for a good life: Education, Income and Health United Way of the Coastal Bend provides funding to 44 programs in Bee, Jim Wells, Kleberg, Live Oak, Nueces and San Patricio Counties. For more information on how you can join the United Way and its partners to build a stronger community, please visit www.uwcb.org or call (361)882-2529

About Coastal Bend CA\$H Coalition

The Coastal Bend CA\$H Coalition is a collaborative effort to provide free tax preparation, financial education, and financial services to help the under-served build for the future and become economically stable. The group is comprised of members from United Way of the Coastal Bend, Coastal Community and Teachers Credit Union, Corpus Christi Housing Authority, Del Mar College, Goodwill Industries, the Internal Revenue Service, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and Texas A&M-Kingsville.

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