



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VITA VOLUNTEERS HELP FILE OVER \$2.6 MILLION WORTH OF TAX REFUNDS

Corpus Christi, TX (April 29, 2011) – The latest Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program report reveals that more people were served in the most recent filing season than in previous years. Almost 1,900 individuals/families utilized the free tax preparation service in 2011; a 27% increase over the previous year's total.

"We have such dedicated volunteers who make this a really positive experience for our clients," shares Donna Hurley, United Way's community services director. "One of our volunteers single handedly helped file 100 returns for area residents. It is generous help like that which make our program so successful."

Over 90 VITA volunteers gave their time between early January and mid April at seven different VITA sites to help mid to low-income households reclaim over \$2.6 million worth of refunds.

Hosted by the Coastal Bend CA\$H Coalition, a special celebration was held at Whataburger Field to recognize and thank each VITA volunteer for their hard work during the tax season. The volunteers were also treated to an evening of Hooks baseball.

The Coastal Bend CA\$H Coalition, a VITA collaborative partnership of United Way of the Coastal Bend, Coastal Community and Teachers Credit Union, 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 more information on how to become a VITA volunteer, contact Donna Hurley with United Way of the Coastal Bend.

About the United Way of the Coastal Bend

The United Way of the Coastal Bend works to advance the common good by focusing on the basic building blocks for a good life: Education, Income and Health. The United Way of the Coastal Bend provides funding to over 40 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.

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