



United Way
of the Coastal Bend

United Way of the Coastal Bend

Contact: Donna Hurley

361-882-2529

donna.hurley@uwcb.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Just in time for 2009:

United Way of the Coastal Bend receives grant dollars for community tax services!

Corpus Christi, Texas – January 16, 2009 – United Way of the Coastal Bend is proud announce it has been named a 2009 Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)/ Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Outreach Initiative Grant recipient by United Ways of Texas. United Way of the Coastal Bend will partner with United Ways of Texas during the 2009 tax season to increase EITC and VITA efforts within the local community.

“A local Asset Building Coalition, consisting of United Way of the Coastal Bend, Del Mar College, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi Housing Authority, the IRS, Weed & Seed, SunTide Federal Credit Union, Catholic Charities and the Nueces County Community Action Agency, is in the process of training volunteers to staff local free tax preparation sites for low and moderate-income taxpayers. Sites will open in early February and more information on site locations and times of service will be released soon”, states Donna Hurley, Community Services Director for United Way of the Coastal Bend and spokesperson for the Asset Building Coalition.

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) dollars are tax credits given to families living within specific income brackets. EITC dollars are proven to support local businesses and economic development, streaming billions of dollars back into the Texas economy each year. However, more than one billion EITC dollars go unclaimed each year due to limited community awareness and limited access to free tax preparation sites. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites help to bridge this gap, bringing vital tax preparation services to Texas families.

During the 2008 tax filing season, VITA sites in Corpus Christi prepared 954 tax returns, with refunds totaling \$860,722.00. Over \$300,000 of that amount was in the form of EITC credits returned to families in the community.

“United Ways of Texas is proud to work with local United Ways to promote financial stability initiatives within Texas communities,” said Karen Johnson, President and CEO of United Ways of Texas. “The EITC/VITA Outreach Initiative ensures families throughout the state are able to take hold of secure financial futures.”

United Way of the Coastal Bend is one of 15 recipients from across the state of Texas to be awarded funds.

United Way of the Coastal Bend works “To improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of community”. www.uwcb.org. United Ways of Texas United Ways of Texas is the voluntary state association of Texas United Ways, committed to statewide leadership that measurably improves Texas communities as places to live and do business.

####