

NEWS RELEASE

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**United Way
of Greater Stark County**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

United Way of Greater Stark County is looking for volunteers to prepare taxes during tax season.

Volunteers are needed to help in the upcoming tax season through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. No experience is necessary. Individuals receive training and IRS Certification appropriate for their volunteer position. They also receive materials for self-study on basic income tax law for federal and state returns. In addition, several specific-training sessions will take place prior to the kickoff of tax season. Volunteers are covered under the Volunteer Protection Act and are not accountable for tax returns filed to the IRS.

“This is a great way for individuals to gain tax knowledge while helping families in our community,” said Chrisann Leaman, VITA & MyBudgetCoach Coordinator, United Way of Greater Stark County. “Many volunteers have gone on to find a job doing taxes. With what this program brings back to the community, it is time well-spent.”

Last tax season through VITA, United Way of Greater Stark County and its volunteers helped income tax clients, in Stark and surrounding counties, collect over \$2.4 million in tax credits and refunds. Local volunteers donated 2,105 hours and helped complete 3,550 Federal and State returns. They also saved local residents \$400,500 in filing fees.

“We are looking forward to another busy tax season,” said Robin Seeman, Income Impact Council Director of United Way of Greater Stark County. “We brought a great deal of money back into this community last year.”

This upcoming season, VITA will offer multiple clinics at each of the following locations: Carroll County District Library, Massillon Public Library, Rodman Library (Alliance), Stark State College, Ohio Means Jobs, United Way of Greater Stark County and Walsh University. The clinics will run January 2, 2017 to April 15, 2017 and only take clients who set up appointments.

In 2014, United Way of Greater Stark County was named VITA “Site of the Year” by the Ohio Benefit Bank Association.

If you would like to volunteer, contact Chrisann Leaman, VITA & MyBudgetCoach Coordinator at **330-491-9989**, e-mail chrisann.leaman@uwstark.org or complete the online VITA volunteer registration form at uwstark.org/freetax.

About United Way

United Way of Greater Stark County believes in creating long-lasting change in the three important impact areas of focus, Education, Income and Health. The agency collaborates, convenes, and partners to support programs and initiatives that break the cycle of poverty, promote a healthy community where children are successful from kindergarten through graduation to a career, and where families have the tools, skills, and support they need to become financially independent. For more information about United Way of Greater Stark County visit www.uwstark.org. Headquarters are at 401 Market Avenue North, Suite 300, Canton, Ohio 44702. Dial (330) 491-0445 to reach the offices.