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**United Way of
Southwestern Pennsylvania**

United Way's Free Tax Preparation seeks 350 volunteer preparers and greeters

*Program to help individuals and families across the region
receive the refunds they've earned and deserve*

PITTSBURGH (November 1, 2023) – United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania is recruiting 325 volunteer tax preparers and 25 greeters for its 2023-2024 Free Tax Preparation effort in Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington and Westmoreland counties. Volunteers complete tax returns for hard-working, low-income families and individuals, to ensure that everyone receives the full refunds they have earned and deserve.

Volunteers can help working families obtain the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), one of the nation's largest anti-poverty programs. Depending on the number of qualifying children, individuals and families can pay less federal tax or get a tax refund ranging from \$600 to \$7,430. Volunteers also help families determine if they qualify for Child Tax Credits (CTC) through their return. The CTC helps families claim up to \$2,000 per child under the age of 17, providing major relief to working families and reducing the amount they may owe on their taxes.

Whether it's helping a family obtain EITC or CTC funds, providing translators for those with limited English proficiency or assisting military families, senior citizens, families in rural communities and people with disabilities, volunteering for United Way's Free Tax Program is a high-impact and rewarding experience. Volunteers can also earn continuing education credits, furthering their careers while making a difference in the lives of others.

No prior tax preparation experience is necessary to volunteer during the season, which runs from mid-January through April 15, 2024. All volunteers must complete IRS-required training and certification. Tax prep services are provided virtually, in-person and via drop off.

"Our community members deserve to get the refunds they've worked hard for, and our volunteers are giving their neighbors that chance," said Alena Anderson, Director, Moving Toward Financial Stability, United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania. "Whether families need to use their refunds to put food on the table, buy their children's school supplies, pay for transportation to their place of work or build up their savings account, everyone deserves to have the resources they need to meet basic needs, move toward financial stability and build for success in school and life."

Last year, 280 volunteers working at 20 Free Tax Prep locations prepared nearly 8,000 returns, saved working families more than \$2 million in tax prep fees and generated \$10.6 million in refunds. United Way also directs families to the [MyFreeTaxes by United Way website](#), where they can prepare their own returns. The impact of United Way's Free Tax Prep program in the region overall increases to 8,250 returns and a refund total is \$11.1 million when MyFreeTaxes returns are included. Free Tax Prep locations are organized by Just Harvest, a United Way partner agency.

Volunteers must sign up before December 31, 2023. Volunteers are needed at sites across Allegheny, Fayette, Greene, Washington and Westmoreland counties and can sign up at swpafreetaxes.org.

About United Way – United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania, serving Allegheny, Armstrong, Butler, Fayette and Westmoreland counties, convenes and mobilizes the caring power of individuals, the business community and organizations to help local people meet basic needs, move toward financial stability and build for success in school and life. Together with dedicated donors and caring volunteers, United Way creates long-lasting change for the betterment of our community.

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