

For Immediate Release

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Lend a Helping Hand

Tax Assistance Program needs volunteers

*"I volunteer to save taxpayers from paying large sums of money to get their taxes done.
It allows them to buy food, pay utilities, or buy a pair of shoes for their child...
They're so grateful for this service! I love it!"*

- VITA volunteer

DAVENPORT, Iowa – The United Way of the Quad Cities Area is looking for volunteers to assist with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and AARP Tax-Aide programs, which provide free income tax filing assistance individuals with a household income less than \$45,000.

The VITA and AARP Tax-Aide programs provide trained volunteer tax preparers who help taxpayers take full advantage of all qualifying tax credits, including Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC), and help to complete and electronically file returns.

This year, 200 volunteers are needed to assist with the 2008/2009 tax season in following areas: tax preparers, greeters and interpreters. Volunteers can set their own schedule, and free training is available, including on-line.

"Anyone can volunteer," says Jodi Stock, VITA volunteer coordinator. "Teachers, retired accountants, social workers, stay-at-home moms, college students... we'll gladly accept anyone willing to donate their time and talents."

During the 2007 tax-filing season, volunteers operated 15 free tax preparation sites located throughout the Quad Cities and completed more than 4,500 returns, a 115 percent increase from 2006. Volunteers brought back to families more than \$1 million in EITC funds; more than \$3 million in overall federal refunds and saved families \$700,000 in tax preparation fees.

To volunteer and learn more about the VITA and AARP Tax-Aide programs please visit www.unitedwayqc.org/vitasite.

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