

For Immediate Release

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**United Way
of Palm Beach County**

United Way of Palm Beach County Seeks 100 Volunteers for VITA Program
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program Provides FREE Tax Services

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (December 9, 2020) – United Way of Palm Beach County’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, in partnership with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), is looking for 100 volunteers to help provide free tax services throughout Palm Beach County to households with an annual income of \$66,000 or less.

This is an ideal opportunity for CPAs, retired professionals, college students or any individuals looking to learn accounting and finance skills. Also needed are volunteers who are bilingual in Spanish or Creole. Volunteers age 16 or older may serve as site greeters and earn community service hours.

To continue to provide this critical service to our community and maintain COVID-19 safety standards, virtual and socially distanced volunteer opportunities are available this year.

Volunteers will receive training to become IRS-Certified VITA Preparers. All volunteers are asked to provide a minimum of four hours a week from January 21 – April 15, 2021 at one of the several VITA sites in the county. CPAs are not required to undergo the IRS training, but must pass the IRS certification test.

The VITA Program helps Palm Beach County taxpayers save over \$1.2 million in fees they would have paid had they used a tax-preparation service. Additionally, research shows that taxpayers receiving refunds through returns processed at VITA sites used the money to achieve financial stability – to pay off debt, invest in education or housing, or open a bank account.

Last year, this program helped process more than 6,800 income tax returns for lower income households resulting in upwards of \$3.8 million in Earned Income Tax Credits and \$11.8 million in tax returns. A program such as VITA not only helps individuals and families in our community, but it also helps our local economy. Since 2004, VITA has returned approximately \$242 million to our community.

Partners of the VITA Program include IRS, 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, and the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners - The Department of Community Services.

To volunteer, call 561.375.6618 or email Nubia Ortega at volunteer@unitedwaypbcc.org.

Visit www.TaxesFiledFree.org for more information.

About United Way of Palm Beach County: For over 90 years, United Way of Palm Beach County has been the local leader dedicated to identifying and addressing critical community issues to improve the lives of our residents. We champion community change by strategically uniting key stakeholders and community leaders and investing in successful local nonprofits. United Way funds more than 100 programs and initiatives that provide lasting solutions and measurable results – from increasing graduation rates and supporting literacy to ensuring financial independence, promoting healthy lifestyles and fighting hunger. When you support United Way of Palm Beach County, you are strengthening your community. To learn more call 561.375.6600 or visit www.UnitedWayPBC.org. Like us on Facebook /UnitedWayPBC and follow us on Twitter /UnitedWayofPBC.

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