



Community Renewal Team
Changing lives... Creating opportunity!

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Jan. 3, 2018

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Jason Black, Strategic Communications Specialist
(860) 560-5683 or cell: (860) 230-4535

CRT Seeks Volunteers to Assist with Income Tax Preparation for Individuals and Families in Hartford and Middletown

Help people to file their 2017 income tax returns, and give them a boost in the year ahead

HARTFORD — The Community Renewal Team (CRT) is actively seeking volunteers to assist individuals and families with the preparation of their 2017 federal and state tax returns as a part of its annual Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

CRT has provided this service to the community for the past 15 years, and has served more than 25,000 families during that time. The total return on investment (refunds plus tax preparation savings) for participants in the program is worth more than \$76 million. Last year alone the refunds and tax preparation savings equaled more than \$2.9 million, helping 926 tax filers.

The average refund received over the past 15 years has been more than \$3,000 per filer.

Individuals that volunteer to help provide this valuable service receive free training so that they can work one-on-one with tax filers to prepare and electronically file their state and federal income tax forms, and to help determine qualifications for eligible tax credits and refunds. Tax preparation services are provided to eligible individuals in the community free of charge.

Volunteers need to be able to commit to at least one shift per week (4 – 5 hours per shift), from February 1 through April 16, 2018. Volunteers are needed in both Hartford and Middletown – bilingual volunteers are strongly encouraged to apply. There is no experience necessary to become a VITA volunteer, and training sessions are available now.

To find out more about becoming one of CRT's VITA volunteers, please contact Eileen Feliciano, CRT Financial Literacy Coordinator at: 860-560-4210.

Community Renewal Team, Inc. is the designated Community Action Agency for Middlesex and Hartford Counties and is the largest non-profit provider of human services in Connecticut. The agency's mission is Preparing Our Community to Meet Life's Challenges. The mission is achieved each day by helping people and families become self-sufficient while making sure basic needs are met. CRT's programs include Head Start, Meals on Wheels, energy assistance, supportive housing and shelters, and many others, serving people in more than 60 cities and towns in both our core catchment area and throughout Connecticut. www.crtct.org