



**Community Renewal Team**  
Changing lives... Creating opportunity!

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
Feb. 1, 2018

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

### **Need Help Preparing 2017 Income Taxes?**

### **Make Your Appointment Now with a Volunteer from CRT**

*Tax preparation services are provided to eligible individuals in the community free of charge*

HARTFORD — Starting today (Feb. 1, 2018) through April 17, 2018, the Community Renewal Team (CRT) is offering free tax preparation services to eligible individuals and families at two locations in Hartford.

CRT has provided this valuable 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 Volunteer Income tax Assistance (VITA) 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.

“We know that filing your taxes can be tricky – and often stressful,” says Elizabeth Horton Sheff, Director of Community Services at CRT. “But the VITA program helps to take away that anxiety, and gives people a simple way to get their taxes done properly, on time and for free.”

Trained volunteers work one-on-one with tax filers to prepare and electronically file their state and federal income tax forms, and to determine qualifications for eligible tax credits and refunds. Tax preparers are available who speak English and Spanish.

Individuals can make appointments now for these tax preparation services. The free tax preparation services are available during the following days and times:

- **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am – 6:00 pm at 330 Market Street, Hartford.** Call: 860-560-4210 to make an appointment.
- **Saturdays from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm at 395 Wethersfield Avenue, Hartford.** Call: 860-560-5149 to make an appointment.

Please bring the following paperwork\* to your appointment:

- Photo ID
- Social Security card, for all family members
- Last year's tax return
- For direct deposit, a blank check or savings book with your account number and routing number
- If filing jointly, both you and your spouse need to be present while your taxes are being prepared and to sign the completed tax form
- Paperwork showing property tax payments (home and auto)
- General income paperwork: W-2, W-2G, 1099–INT, SSA-1099R, 1099–DIV, 1099-G
- If a homeowner, alimony received, 1099-MISC, 1099-B, and 1099-R

To find out more about how you can use CRT's free tax preparation services, please visit our website: <http://www.crtct.org/en/need-help/money/vita-tax-filing>

*\*A complete list of required paperwork is attached to this press release.*

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*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](http://www.crtct.org)*