



## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:  
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### **CRT Seeks VITA Tax Preparation Volunteers**

*Only 3 hours per week helps save millions for low-income families in CT*

HARTFORD—Community Renewal Team, Inc. (CRT) is seeking volunteers to help low-income families across Hartford and Middlesex Counties prepare their taxes and receive millions of dollars in tax savings. As a part of [CRT's VITA tax preparation service](#), volunteers will be fully trained and IRS-certified with the support of experienced tax coordinators.

Last year's volunteers completed state and federal tax returns for more than 2,000 households in Hartford, Manchester, East Hartford, and Middletown while assisting them in saving \$6 million through the Earned Income Tax Credits, child care credits, tax refunds and savings on tax preparation services.

This tax season (2012) marks the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year for CRT's VITA program. In the past five years alone, CRT tax customers have been able to hold onto some \$36 million through these services.

[VITA](#), or the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, is offered by organizations across the nation to income-eligible families. Volunteers are asked to commit 3-4 hours per week for 12 weeks during the tax season that begins January 17, 2012. Through VITA, state and federal returns are e-filed, and refund checks are direct-deposited for those who have checking accounts or issued as a pre-loaded bank card for those who cannot open a traditional bank account.

Interested VITA volunteers do not need to have prior tax preparation experience. Information Sessions about this volunteer experience are listed below:

- \* Location: CRT Main Office, 555 Windsor St., Hartford, CT 06120
  - November 16, 2011 from 2-3:30p.m.
  - November 17, 2011 from 5-6:30p.m.

For more information or to sign up for one of the Information Sessions, contact Andrea Hardy, CRT Financial Literacy Coordinator, at (860) 560-4210.

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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. Please visit [www.crtct.org](http://www.crtct.org).

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