



## MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:  
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### **CRT Free Tax Preparation Saved \$7.9 million for CT Working Families Last Year** *Multiple Sites Begin Operating in February and Appointments Being Scheduled Now*

HARTFORD— Free income tax preparation services offered by Community Renewal Team begins its 12<sup>th</sup> year helping low- and middle-income Connecticut families capture maximum tax credits while saving the cost of tax preparation services – to the tune of millions of dollars.

Last year, CRT's tax volunteers put **\$7.9 million** into the pockets of Hartford and Middlesex County families through Earned Income Tax Credits, child care credits, tax refunds and savings on tax preparation fees. CRT tax filers have held onto more than **\$30 million** in the past five years.

CRT's Wethersfield Avenue and Market Street locations will start reviewing taxes February 1. Middletown and Manchester locations begin appointments February 3 and the East Hartford office begins tax review February 4. To schedule an appointment at any one of our centers, call 860-TAX HELP (829-4357).

To reach our centers directly:

<b>330 Market St., Hartford</b>	<b>860-560-5149</b>
<b>395 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford</b>	<b>860-560-5738</b>
<b>44 Hamlin St., Middletown</b>	<b>860-347-4465</b>
<b>81 Woodlawn Circle, East Hartford</b>	<b>860-282-0284</b>
<b>479 Main St., Manchester</b>	<b>860-647-3095</b>

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA), offered by organizations across the nation, offers free tax preparation by IRS-certified volunteers to income-eligible families. 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.

The 2014 tax season marks the 12<sup>th</sup> year for CRT's VITA program. Last year, CRT completed tax returns for more than **2,116 area households**. VITA aims to help working families obtain tax refunds and credits and to educate the community about refunds and opportunities to grow their assets. CRT will offer VITA services at most sites from **now until April 15, 2014**.

(more)

In addition to tax preparation, CRT staff offers families and individuals information about other programs available to help them build wealth, purchase assets or otherwise take steps to improve their quality of life. Programs like IDA (Individual Development Accounts) helps families earn matched dollars to help towards the purchase of a first home, a business or an education.

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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)*