



Community Renewal Team
Changing lives... Creating opportunity!

MEDIA RELEASE

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Community Renewal Team's Tax Programs Save Millions for Connecticut

On eve of tax day, Senators Murphy and Blumenthal advocate for fair tax return services like VITA

HARTFORD — With reports of predatory tax filing practices around the country, Community Renewal Team is ahead of the trend, with its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) saving millions of dollars to Connecticut residents every year at no cost to them.

Senators Chis Murphy and Richard Blumenthal's press conference Monday, on the eve of tax day, is addressing the need for regulated tax return filing programs. But CRT's VITA program is and always has been free to low and middle income families and individuals and has saved residents millions in the last year. CRT's tax experts and tax clients are available for interview today on this subject and can outline how thousands this year have saved millions of dollars on their tax returns.

Now in its 12th year as a VITA provider, CRT is an integral part of a nation-wide program offering free tax preparation by IRS-certified volunteers to low and middle income individuals and families. CRT has helped to complete tax returns for thousands of families last year, putting more than \$7.9 million into the pockets of Hartford and Middlesex county residents. In the last decade, CRT's VITA volunteers have helped their clients keep a hold of nearly \$57 million. Walk-in appointments are still available at CRT through Tuesday.

"Our participation in VITA is an important part of Community Renewal Team's overall mission of changing lives and creating opportunity," said Lena Rodriguez, Chief Executive Officer and President of CRT. "It is unconscionable that our nation's working families who try hard to make ends meet all year long are being robbed of their hard-earned dollars because of unfair fees from tax preparers. CRT staff and volunteers are proud to bring peace of mind to struggling families in Connecticut through services like VITA."

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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 change their lives and create their own opportunities in becoming self-reliant 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. Visit the www.crtct.org.