



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

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
November 13, 2014

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:  
Liz Newberg, Communications Specialist  
(860) 560-5636 or cell: (860)324-1403

### **Volunteer Tax Preparers Needed for VITA Program**

*Become a certified tax preparer for free and help low -income families save thousands*

HARTFORD— Can you invest three hours a week to help low-income Connecticut families get back a combined \$7.3 million? As part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA), volunteers can be part of an initiative that helps low- and moderate-income families file tax returns and realize thousands of dollars in tax returns. Volunteers need no prior tax preparation experience and will receive free IRS-certified training. You can help families save money by preparing returns for free while learning to do your own taxes.

**Free, no-obligation information sessions are being held in Hartford and Middletown on:**

- **November 17, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at 330 Market Street in Hartford**
- **November 21 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at 330 Market Street in Hartford**
- **December 18 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Water's Edge, 111 Church Street in Middletown**

The public is invited to any of the free information sessions or can contact Andrea Hardy at (860) 560-4210 or [hardya@crtct.org](mailto:hardya@crtct.org).

CRT's VITA tax preparation service volunteers complete state and federal tax returns and help families save money by evaluating qualifications for Earned Income Tax Credits, child care credits, tax refunds and savings on tax preparation services. The free program served more than 2,000 families in 2013 and saved them more than \$3 million dollars in federal refunds.

This year marks CRT's 13<sup>th</sup> year operating VITA. In addition to tax preparation, CRT offers programs that help clients build wealth, purchase assets or take steps to improve their quality of life. Programs like Individual Development Accounts helps families earn matched dollars towards the purchase of a first home, a business or an education.

###

*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)*