

United Way of Southern Chautauqua County

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Free Tax Preparation Still Available

Eligible Chautauqua County residents can still get their taxes done for free through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program. The Chautauqua County Earned Income Tax Credit Coalition has openings available at its VITA sites through April 1.

Through the VITA program, trained, IRS-certified volunteers prepare income tax returns for income-eligible, working residents – helping them to qualify for all tax credits they may be entitled to, including the Earned Income Tax Credit. To qualify, working families must have earned less than \$48,279 in 2009.

Most returns are filed electronically, and refunds could be received in as few as ten days, at no cost to the individual. The VITA program provides free preparation, free electronic filing, and fast access to all of your tax refund. So far this season, well over 200 taxpayers have had their taxes done for free.

United Way Director of Community Building P. Richard Fleurant said, "This program really helps people in our community who need help the most. Our goal each year is to help eligible taxpayers to receive the full value of their federal and state tax credits and refunds."

This year, all tax preparation sites require appointments. To make an appointment or to find out if you qualify, call Chautauqua County's information and referral line by dialing 2-1-1.

Members of the Chautauqua County Earned Income Tax Credit Coalition include the Chautauqua County Department of Social Services, Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc., Southwestern Independent Living Center, and United Way.

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