



## **Wal-Mart Teams Up with United Way to Provide Free Tax Preparation**

Posted Thursday, February 12, 2009 ; 07:56 AM

**United Way of Central West Virginia has been chosen to receive a grant of \$15,000 to assist in its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance**

CHARLESTON -- The Wal-Mart Foundation is working with United Way and One Economy, a non-profit organization that helps low-income Americans enter the economic mainstream, to bring free tax preparation and filing services to taxpayers in Central West Virginia. Today the Foundation announced United Way of Central West Virginia has been chosen to receive a grant of \$15,000 to assist in its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) campaigns in a six-county region.

VITA campaigns are part of a \$3.6 million Wal-Mart Foundation grant to United Way and One Economy, which launched the first-ever free mobile tax filing tour funded by a national retailer and funded more than 90 United Way-supported VITA campaigns in cities nationwide. In total, the Wal-Mart Foundation's grant has the potential to return \$300 million\* in Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) refunds and save \$45 million\*\* in tax preparation fees.

“Many Central West Virginia residents are unaware of the tax credits they qualify for,” said Margaret McKenna, president of the Wal-Mart Foundation. “Through this Wal-Mart Foundation grant, we are able to help eligible consumers take advantage of tax credits, and provide them with opportunities to save money on tax preparation fees.”

United Way-supported VITA campaigns in Boone, Clay, Kanawha, Logan, Mingo, and Putnam counties are staffed by IRS-certified tax professionals to educate consumers about tax rebates and help those earning less than \$42,000 per year file their taxes accurately and free of charge.

Nationally, the IRS estimates that approximately 20 percent of eligible individuals and families are unaware that they qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a refundable federal income tax credit for low to moderate income individuals and families. With United Way-supported VITA campaigns and One Economy's online tools, the Wal-

Mart Foundation has set out to ensure that a greater number of taxpayers in Central West Virginia are educated about the EITC and have access to free tax filing assistance.

“For the past few years, I've met with representatives at United Way of America to discuss the positive impact EITC and VITA have made on our state's economy," said Mary C. Dillon, marketing director for United Way and chair of the Central West Virginia EITC Coalition. "To be one of only 90 United Ways selected nationally proves that the commitment of our volunteers in the counties we serve has not gone unnoticed.

"We are looking forward to seeing the positive impact that this grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation will have on families visiting VITA campaigns in our coalition," Dillon added. “This year more than ever, families need to take advantage of every dollar made available to them, and thanks to the Wal-Mart Foundation, we are in a position to help them do just that.”

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