



NEWS RELEASE

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Volunteer Center and United Way Kickoff Free Tax Prep Program

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (January 22, 2018) – Families or individuals that earn less than \$54,000 gross annually qualify for the Free Tax Preparation program organized by members of the Financial Stability Partnership. IRS certified volunteer tax preparers help residents file their taxes and claim available credits. Tax credits may help families get up to a \$5,000 refund.

“This program shows what we can accomplish when we all come together to improve our community,” said David Nicole, president and CEO of United Way of Allen County. “Together, we improve the lives of our Allen County neighbors by helping them to become more financially stable through earned tax credits that allow these families and individuals to pay off debt or start an emergency fund.”

The Free Tax Preparation program saves residents fees for tax preparation and e-filing. Highly trained, certified volunteer preparers run the program to ensure that individuals receive high quality tax services.

“We really could not provide these services without the help of our volunteers,” said Volunteer Center’s Executive Director, Jean Joley. “They are critical to the success of the program and ultimately to the financial welfare of our community.”

To learn more about the Free Tax Preparation program, residents may download a flyer from www.UnitedWayAllenCounty.org. Those who need more information, or special accommodations may also dial 2-1-1. Free tax preparation is available from **January 27 to April 11, 2018** throughout Allen County, with additional sites for surrounding counties:

Allen County

St. Mary’s Catholic Church

1101 S. Lafayette St.

Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday, 2 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Saturday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

(Closed on February 14 and March 31)

American Red Cross

1212 California Rd.

Saturday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Outside Allen County

These venues are by appointment **ONLY**. Call 260.925.0917 to schedule an appointment.

Auburn
Catholic Charities

Kendallville
Kendallville Public Library

Angola
Carnegie Public Library
United Way of Steuben County

Individuals with disabilities, International students, and active Military and National Guard personnel should call 2-1-1 for assistance and to make an appointment for tax preparation. Residents can also prepare their taxes online at www.myfreetaxes.com, which prepares both the federal and state returns simultaneously.

Funding for the program is provided by a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program grant from the IRS and by United Way of Allen County.

United Way of Allen County, Volunteer Center, Brightpoint, Ivy Tech Community College Northeast, Purdue Cooperative Extension Service, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Indiana Tech and Catholic Charities RSVP Auburn are active providers of the program with the support of the Financial Stability Partnership.

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Note: A news conference will be held **January 30, 2018** at St. Mary's Catholic Church featuring partners of the Free Tax Preparation Program as well as a tour of a site and photo opportunities at 2 p.m.