

Immediate Release

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Working Rhode Islanders Receive \$13 million in Tax Benefits

United Way of Rhode Island helps taxpayers take full advantage of refunds and credits

Providence, R.I. (July 20, 2010) For the sixth year now, United Way of Rhode Island (UWRI) conducted the highly successful Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Site/Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Initiative. The latest figures indicate a financial benefit of nearly \$13 million for working Rhode Islanders. The figure represents the value of the tax refunds and credits that were claimed as well as the value of the tax preparation services that were provided to participating taxpayers. More than \$50 million in tax refunds, credits and free tax preparation services have been provided to working Rhode Islanders since 2005.

The goal is to ensure that working Rhode Islanders, earning less than \$49,000 annually, access free tax services in order to receive the money they are due in refunds and tax credits. More than 7,400 taxpayers participated in the VITA/EITC Initiative this past year. This figure represents an increase of more than 30% as compared to the previous year; more than 400% growth since UWRI first got involved six years ago.

“The results speak for themselves,” said Anthony Maione, president & CEO, United Way of Rhode Island. “Every dollar counts, especially during these economic times. We’re happy that working Rhode Islanders were able to take full advantage of the credits for which they qualify, which will help strengthen their financial stability.”

The VITA/EITC Initiative is a joint effort by a wide range of organizations, including Domestic Bank, Citizens Bank, the Rhode Island Department of Human Services, and the Internal Revenue Service. Other key partners include community action agencies, John Hope Settlement House, Cranston Senior Services, and the YWCA, which is where taxpayers can meet with voluntary income tax professionals. Voluntary income tax professionals assist taxpayers to complete their income tax forms, so that they take full advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Child Tax Credit and the Education Credit. The value of this voluntary assistance is nearly \$1.2 million.

About United Way of Rhode Island

United Way of Rhode Island has been working to improve the quality of life in Rhode Island communities for over 80 years. UWRI's mission is to mobilize the caring power of the community to improve the lives of people in need and address the issues Rhode Islanders care most about. United Way's goal is to create long-lasting changes that prevent problems from happening in the first place. We believe that all Rhode Islanders deserve the opportunity to have a better life, as when any one of us succeeds, we all succeed. For more information, visit www.LIVEUNITEDri.org.

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