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PRESS RELEASE

January 10, 2012

CONTACT: Dana Napier, (352) 333-0855: office, (904) 566-8573: cell

**United Way Looking for Volunteers to Prepare Tax Returns  
VITA Program funded by IRS to support the EITC; Offers free training  
and free tax prep and filing for local residents**

GAINESVILLE -- Tax season is just around the corner, and United Way of North Central Florida is in need of volunteers to help with their Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

United Way is currently looking for individuals interested in becoming IRS Certified VITA tax return preparers as well as greeters for the 2012 tax season. Tax preparation assistance will be offered January through mid-April. Site locations will be established in six counties: Alachua, Bradford, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy and Union, the six counties United Way of North Central Florida serves. Location and hours vary, but include weekday, Saturday, daytime and evening appointments to help accommodate all who are interested in the free tax prep and filing. Volunteers can choose the hours they would like to volunteer.

Free training, by way of classroom or online course, is offered to all volunteers, and no formal education is required. The next classroom training course is being offered January 17-19 at the University of Florida in Gerson Hall from 6pm - 9pm each night. Prospective volunteers are provided with training workbooks and additional information at the training session, and must pre-register on-line at [www.VITAvolunteer.com](http://www.VITAvolunteer.com). Arrangements can be made for remote training and testing if the training location is not convenient.

Volunteers are also needed to be greeters during site operations, and these positions only require limited training. Anyone interested in becoming an IRS Certified VITA Volunteer Tax Preparer or greeter should contact David at (352) 333-0852 or email [UWtaxes@unitedwayncfl.org](mailto:UWtaxes@unitedwayncfl.org).

The VITA Program is an opportunity for low to moderate-income families (annual income of \$50,000 or less) to have their taxes prepared and filed by a certified preparer, free of charge. Residents interested in the free VITA service can set up an appointment by calling 2-1-1. Refunds are generally direct-deposited within 8 - 14 days. VITA Sites open on January 17, 2012. Visit [www.getyourEITC.com](http://www.getyourEITC.com) for more information.

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**President & CEO**

**Debbie Mason,**  
*APR, CPRC, Fellow PRSA*

Academy Underwriting Members:



6031 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Place • Gainesville, FL 32607-2025  
352-331-2800 (tel) • 352-331-2111 (fax)  
[www.unitedwayncfl.org](http://www.unitedwayncfl.org)