



Creating a Future of Opportunity

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UpValley Family Centers provides free bilingual tax services

UpValley Family Centers (UVFC) is providing free tax preparation services at our offices in St. Helena and Calistoga, evenings and weekends from February 1 - April 18, through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. New this year, thanks to support from Citibank, we will also offer VITA services onsite at Napa's three farmworker camps, working closely with California Human Development Corporation.

Services are available to those seeking to file their federal and state tax returns, who have low-to-moderate incomes (under \$54,000/ year). We also assist with Individual Tax Identification Numbers (ITINs) for residents without a social security number. UVFC is a member of the Earn it! Keep it! Save it! Coalition led by United Way of the Bay Area. Our goal is to help low-income residents increase financial literacy through the process of filing taxes.

The VITA tax preparers include volunteers and staff, and are required to go through an extensive training course, take a rigorous proficiency exam, and be certified by the IRS. UVFC's dedicated VITA volunteers include local residents and students in the Business and Economic Department at Pacific Union College. Donations from individuals, foundations and corporations make it possible to provide this important service to the community. Our funders include: United Way of the Bay Area, Citibank, Napa Valley Community Foundation, Napa Valley Vintners/Auction Napa Valley, Bank of America Charitable Foundation, and Wells Fargo Foundation.

In the 2015 tax year, our volunteers and staff helped 519 households receive free tax preparation assistance, which generated more than \$695,473 in refunds, averaging \$1,340 per family. This money is not only vital for their household budgets, but it is money that is most often spent locally and invested back into our communities, strengthening our local economy.

For more information on UVFC's VITA tax preparation services, or to make an appointment, call 707-965-5010.

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