



Williamson County Financial Stability Coalition

NEWS RELEASE

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Local Coalition Expands Free Tax Services in County to Meet Increased Need

The Williamson County Financial Stability Coalition (WCFSC) is gearing up for the 2011 tax season with full force and is now actively recruiting volunteers for their free tax preparation sites located across Williamson County.

Focused on increasing the accessibility of free tax preparation services to low and moderate income families in Williamson County, and helping those families become more financially stable, the WCFSC is a collaborative effort comprised of five organizations - United Way of Williamson County, Internal Revenue Service, AARP, WBC Opportunities, and the Literacy Council of Williamson County.

“United Way of Williamson County (UWWC) has always looked at ways to assist our neighbors in need. With the help of our partners in this Coalition we have been able to strategically focus our efforts on ensuring that the residents of Williamson County are able to increase their income and assets,” said LeAnn Powers, the organization’s Chief Professional Officer, “Last year, during our first year of expanding the free tax preparation services across the County, we were able to help more than 550 additional families. That is an increase of 35%! Of particular note is that more than \$400,000 was saved by these families alone simply because they did not have to pay to have their taxes completed. And collectively they received more than \$3.5 million in refunds. The Coalition is setting high expectations for the coming tax season, with hopes of doubling these figures, but we need help.”

Volunteer income tax preparers, site hosts and translators are needed at three of the locations - Taylor, Leander and a new site in Georgetown. The Coalition, in conjunction with the AARP and the IRS, will offer free training for the volunteers. Following the January training, the volunteers will be invited to assist once a week at the location of their choosing. All of the free tax preparation sites will be open from January 28 through April 16, 2012. A complete list of site operation times and locations is posted at www.wilcofreetaxprep.org.

Driven primarily by the current state of the economy, low to moderate income individuals and families are faced with increased pressure to make ends meet and the impact of a free tax preparation service is great. By utilizing this free service families can realize a larger amount of tax credits and refunds allowing these families additional monies to pay their rent, utilities and put food on the table. And because these dollars are spent in the local communities everyone benefits.

To learn more about how you can volunteer, visit www.wilcofreetaxprep.org, call (512) 255-6799 or email coalition@unitedway-wc.org.