



United Way  
of Broome County

United Way of Broome County, Inc.  
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## NEWS MEDIA RELEASE

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### **United Way of Broome County, Broome County Department of Social Services, and the Family Enrichment Network Turn Tax Season into over \$3,250,000 of Economic Impact in Broome County**

(VESTAL, NY) – With another tax season complete, United Way of Broome County, Broome County Department of Social Services (DSS), and the Family Enrichment Network (FEN), are pleased to announce that the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) tax sites returned over \$2,500,000 in combined federal and New York State tax refunds to local residents.

The VITA program provides free tax preparation for low- to mid-income households bringing in \$66,000 or less, with a special focus on tax credits, such as the earned income tax credit, child tax credits, elderly credits, dependent care credits, and college credits, often unclaimed without expert knowledge.

This tax season, over 1,540 households turned to the 2-1-1 Susquehanna River Region Contact Center to schedule tax assistance appointments with United Way of Broome County and DSS; in total, \$2,647,432 in tax refunds were processed, with an additional estimated savings of over \$401,940 in tax prep costs to participants, based on IRS estimates. The total value provided to the community was \$3,251,158 when combining savings in tax prep fees, refunds, and in-kind value and time.

The VITA tax sites at United Way of Broome County, DSS, and FEN were made possible by the efforts of 38 volunteer tax preparers, including students from Binghamton University. These students and individuals underwent a rigorous schedule of trainings and examinations to become IRS-certified, and ultimately contributed 7,761 volunteer hours over the course of the tax season, valued at \$201,786.00 based on the hourly value of the independent sector for volunteers working in New York.

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of these volunteers, United Way of Broome County will be hosting the volunteers at the **United Way of Broome County, Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am** to recognize them for their hard-work and participation. Senator Fred Akshar will be present to thank and award each volunteer for their service.

To learn more about United Way of Broome County's work in the community, or to get involved with ongoing volunteer efforts, please visit [www.uwbroome.org](http://www.uwbroome.org).

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