



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 and the Broome County Department of Social Services Turn Tax Season into over \$1,300,000 of Economic Impact in Broome County

(VESTAL, NY) – With another tax season complete, United Way of Broome County and the Broome County Department of Social Services (DSS) are pleased to announce that the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) tax sites returned over \$1,080,000 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 600 households turned to the 211 Susquehanna River Region Contact Center to schedule tax assistance appointments with United Way of Broome County and DSS; in total, \$1,087,781 in tax refunds were processed, with an additional estimated savings of over \$182,700 in tax prep costs to participants, based on IRS estimates. The total value provided to the community was \$1,327,692.80 when combining savings in tax prep fees, refunds, and in-kind value and time.

The VITA tax sites at United Way of Broome County and DSS were made possible by the efforts of 15 volunteer tax preparers, including students from SUNY Broome and Binghamton University. All tax prep volunteers underwent a rigorous schedule of trainings and examinations to become IRS-certified, and ultimately contributed 1,654 volunteer hours over the course of the tax season, valued at \$57,211.86 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 23rd at 11:30am** to recognize them for their hard-work and participation.

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.

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United Way of Broome County unites donors, volunteers and community organizations in a common mission to drive change that will have a positive impact on the critical needs of our community by strategically leveraging the collective resources of community partners. Our focus is on Basic Needs, Health, Education, and Financial Stability. These are the building blocks for a good life and the cornerstones of a strong community. By combining contributions from individuals and organizations, United Way generates a larger pool of dollars and expertise to tackle the issues that matter most, to help those who need it the most, in ways that achieve the greatest impact. Our work is personal enough to change lives and powerful enough to improve conditions across the community we serve. United Way invites people to come together, LIVE UNITED and create the change we want to see.

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