



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 Department of Social Services, and the Family Enrichment Network Turn Tax Season into over \$2,200,000 of Economic Impact in Broome County**

(VESTAL, NY) – With another tax season complete, United Way of Broome County, Broome 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 \$1,651,106 in combined federal and New York State tax refunds to local residents.

As the most successful antipoverty program operated by the IRS, 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 1502 households turned to United Way of Broome County, DSS and FEN for assistance; in total, \$1,651,106 in tax refunds were processed, with an additional estimated savings of over \$410,046 in tax prep costs to participants (based on IRS estimates). The total value provided to community is \$2,061,152 when combining savings in tax prep fees and refunds. If you add the in-kind value, the total provided to the community is \$2,213,574.

The VITA tax sites at United Way, DSS, and FEN were made possible by the efforts of 41 volunteer tax preparers, including students from Binghamton University. These students underwent a rigorous schedule of trainings and examinations to become IRS-certified, and ultimately contributed more than 5,432 volunteer hours over the course of the tax season, valued at \$152,421.92 based on the hourly value of the independent sector for volunteers working in New York.

To learn more about United Way'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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