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United Way of Greater
Richmond & Petersburg



**UNITED WAY'S METROCASH PROGRAM
Nets Region's Workers \$2.9 Million in Tax Refunds**

Richmond, VA [5/27/2015] – Metrocash volunteers, who are IRS Certified Tax Preparers and Cash Coaches, helped generate tax returns which garnered more than \$2.9 million in federal and state tax refunds for 2,517 working adults in the Richmond region for the 2014 tax season.

Metrocash, the local Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) program operated by United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg, offers the preparation of federal and state income tax returns free of charge for low to moderate income workers earning less than \$53,000 per year.

Because of the Metrocash program, local workers also saved a total of \$622,000 in tax preparation fees. “This savings is important for people with very limited income,” said Cara Cardotti, Program Director for Metrocash.

Of the \$2.9 million in tax refunds, people claimed more than \$966,000 from the EITC, a federal tax credit. Often individuals and families are not aware of this credit causing this money to be unclaimed. This is money that struggling families could use to get out of debt or pay household expenses. The EITC dollars represent 37 percent of the total refunds that working families and individuals claimed with the help of Metrocash.

Metrocash coordinated 13 tax sites across our region in the counties of Charles City, Chesterfield, Hanover, and Henrico and the cities of Petersburg and Richmond. One site, located at 1021 Oliver Hill Way in Richmond, will remain open until June 30 to accommodate late filers.

The Metrocash program would not be possible without the commitment of 180 volunteers who dedicated more than 3,000 hours to serving our community this tax season. “Through our United Way Income focus area, we promote the financial independence of low to moderate income residents, and through Metrocash help thousands of working families save their income,” said Cardotti. “Metrocash has offered free tax preparation services for 13 years,” she added.

In addition to providing free tax preparation services, 603 residents in our region completed their own tax returns through the Virginia Free File Program and MyFreeTaxes funded through United Way by the Walmart Foundation.

For more information on Metrocash, go to www.metrocash.org.

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Metrocash is a community-based, volunteer income tax assistance (VITA), regional program comprised of social service, nonprofit, faith-based, business, and government organizations that serves the Greater Richmond region. Founded in 2002, our mission is to strengthen the financial independence of working families to achieve greater financial independence by advocating for the Earned Income Tax Credit, providing cost-free tax preparation services and promoting financial education. For more, visit www.metrocash.org, email cardottic@yourunitedway.org or call (804) 775-6433.

MORE INFORMATION

Locality	Tax Filers	Refunds
Petersburg	162	\$241,263.81
Charles City	186	105,399
Hanover	148	214,414.00
Chesterfield	124	154,559.00
Henrico	401	438,701
Richmond	1496	1,735,420.00
	2517	\$2,889,757.08