

Contact: Roxann Sebest, Director of Marketing and Communications



**United Way of Youngstown
and the Mahoning Valley**

330.746.8494 or rsebest@ymvunitedway.org

NEWS RELEASE

United Way and the Mahoning Valley Financial Stability Partnership offer Free Tax Assistance

January 29, 2018

(Youngstown, OH) - The United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley teams up with key partners to provide free income tax preparation assistance through VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program). Low to moderate income individuals and families as well as seniors can qualify for the services made available by both the IRS's VITA and Tax Counseling for Seniors (TCE). The program kicks off with the first "Super Saturday" event on Saturday, February 3, 2018 at these partner sites:

- Youngstown State University Williamson College of Business Administration, 10am-3pm (Appointments Required)
- Sebring Public Library, 9:30am-4:30pm (Appointments Required)

The Mahoning County Financial Stability Partnership is hosting a Financial Fair as a part of the "Super Saturday" event at YSU. More than 10 partners from the Financial Stability Partnership will be vendors at this event to provide financial education and support to all individuals in attendance. Short seminars will also be offered to clients being served as they wait to have their taxes prepared. The goal of this event is to assist each family in making responsible fiscal decisions with not only their tax return money but for their financial future.

VITA offers free assistance to taxpayers, including but not limited to persons with disabilities, students, and older taxpayers who file Form 1040EZ, Form 1040A, or a basic Form 1040 Federal tax return. VITA volunteers also alert taxpayers to special credits and deductions for which they may be eligible. Taxpayers who visit a VITA site should bring wage and earnings statements (Form W-2) from all employers, interest statements from banks (Forms 1099), a copy of last year's tax return if available, and other relevant information about income and expenses. Taxpayers with complex returns may need to see an accountant.

Working individuals and families also may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). IRS estimates that 20 percent of eligible taxpayers do not claim the credit, which could put as much as \$5,372 into the pockets of a family with two children. Some individuals and families may qualify for the credit for the first time because of unemployment or other changes in their financial, marital or parental

United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley
255 Watt Street Youngstown, OH 44505
www.ymvunitedway.org

LIVE UNITED™

status during the past year. The EITC is a valuable but complex tax break. VITA volunteers can help determine if taxpayers qualify for the EITC.

Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) is another IRS-sponsored, free income tax service available to our community. Both VITA and TCE volunteers complete a rigorous IRS training course in basic income tax return preparation before they can assist taxpayers. Last year, more than 3,000 individuals and families in Mahoning County took advantage of the free tax sites resulting in more than \$3 million dollars in refunds and fee savings – money that stayed in the hands of those who need it most. For the past eight years, United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley has offered support to the VITA program that has allowed for additional volunteers and sites throughout Mahoning County. Site locations include MYCAP, YWCA, Oakhill Collaborative, Zion Lutheran Church , Austintown Senior Center, Boardman Library, Poland Library, Tri-Lakes Library, Park Vista Senior Center and Taft Elementary School.

PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED LIST OF SITES.

To make an appointment or for more information please call:
330-540-1947 or email vita@ccregional.org
(except Salem Memorial Building. See listing below)

Austintown Senior Center

100 Westchester Dr., Austintown, OH 44515
Wednesday 9 a.m.- 1p.m.

Boardman Library

7680 Glenwood Ave., Boardman, OH 44512
Tues. & Wed. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Campbell Elementary and Middle School

2002 Community Circle, Campbell, OH 44405
Tues. & Thurs., 4:30 - 9 p.m., Feb. 4 - Apr. 7

Poland Library

311 S. Main St., Poland, OH 44514

Sebring Library

195 W. Ohio Ave., Sebring, OH 44672
Sat., 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Feb. 3- Apr. 7

Tri-Lakes Library

13820 Mahoning Ave., North Jackson, OH 44451
Mon., 2-4 p.m., & Wed., 1:30-5:30 p.m.
Feb. 5-April 11

Taft Neighborhood

730 E. Avondale, Youngstown, OH 44503
Every other Mon., 4 - 6 p.m., Feb. 12 - Apr. 9

Park Vista Senior Center

1110 Fifth Ave., Youngstown
(330)744-5071

Salem Memorial Building

785 State St., Salem, OH
For appointment: 330-332-5512

Oak Hill Collaborative

507 Oak Hill Ave., Youngstown, OH 44502
Th., 4 - 6 p.m.

Zion Lutheran Church

3300 Canfield Road, Youngstown, OH 44511
Th., 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Youngstown State University Williamson College of Business

Walk-ins

221 N. Hazel St., Youngstown, OH 44503

MYCAP

1325 Fifth Ave. Youngstown, OH 44504

Wed., 4 - 6 p.m., Feb. 7 - Apr. 11

OCCHA

3660 Shirley Rd. Youngstown, OH 44502

Saturday, February 17, 12 - 4 p.m.

Compass Family/ Community Service

535 Marmion Ave., Youngstown, OH 44502

Fri., 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Feb. 9 - Apr. 13

Youngstown Community School - FOR SCHOOL FAMILIES ONLY

50 Essex St., Youngstown, OH 44502

Mon., 4 - 6 p.m., Feb. 12 - Apr. 9

YWCA of Youngstown

25 W. Rayen Ave. Youngstown, OH 44503

Wed., 6 - 8:30 p.m. & Sat., 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Feb.3 - Apr. 14

To make an appointment or for more information please call:

330-540-1947 or email vita@ccregional.org

United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley

255 Watt Street Youngstown, OH 44505

www.ymvunitedway.org

LIVE UNITED™