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TEAM VITA TAX CLINIC ENDS SEASON AT \$500,000 MARK

Derby, CT-May 12, 2010 - \$531,833 has been refunded by IRS to 434 Lower Naugatuck Valley and surrounding area taxpayers who had their 2009 income tax returns prepared and electronically filed by the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program provided at TEAM offices in Derby. Of the federal refunds, low-income Valley families received \$203,949 in Earned Income Tax Credits and \$96,730 in Child Tax Credits.

Nine IRS trained VITA volunteers prepared the tax returns, contributing a total of 690 hours to the program valued at \$14,387. Independent Sector, a Washington, D.C.-based coalition of philanthropic organizations dedicated to strengthening the non profit sector, has announced that the 2009 estimate for the value of a volunteer hour has reached \$20.85, which increased from \$19.51 per hour in 2008. The 2009 VITA volunteers were Mian Rasheed, Robyn Levesque, William Weksner, Diane O'Brien, Joan Kayser, John Harwood, David Rabinove, and Lynn Weitzner.

The Internal Revenue Service's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is free and educates people about tax credits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which can provide significant refunds that can help people build their assets. By providing a tax service that lower income families cannot afford, VITA volunteers also make families and individuals aware of federal and state income tax credits they might otherwise miss out on.

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“TEAM has been focusing its efforts on providing a greater level of VITA services to residents for which English is their second language. To address this barrier, TEAM has begun recruiting volunteers who speak both their native language and English proficiently,” said Robert Bohannon, TEAM Vice President of Elderly and Community Services. “We are proud of the success this element has added to our VITA program and plan on adding innovative approaches to continue to meet the tax preparation needs of this population.”

Richard Knoll, President and CEO of TEAM, said, many working families don't claim the tax credits they are entitled to "Many taxpayers eligible for these credits are not aware of the deductions they are entitled to. Our volunteers have been educated about them, and the money makes a big difference in the lives of the people we serve." He further states, “We are delighted with the amount of the tax refunds and are most appreciative and grateful to the volunteer tax preparers who make this program a reality for the residents of our communities.”

The TEAM Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program is sponsored by the Naugatuck Savings Bank Foundation.

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TEAM Inc. is a private, non-profit 501(C)3 corporation whose mission is to connect individuals and families with solutions that lead to well-being, self-sufficiency and full participation in the community. It aims to achieve its mission by conducting activities that address the needs of economically disadvantaged individuals and families including resource mobilization, education, advocacy and service delivery. TEAM programs serve the communities of Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Derby, Milford, Orange, Oxford, Shelton, Seymour and Woodbridge.