

For Immediate Release

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FILE YOUR TAXES FOR FREE WITH UNITED WAY OF ESCAMBIA COUNTY'S VITA PROGRAM

Pensacola, Fla. – January 23, 2019

Escambia County residents making \$66,000 or less annually are eligible to utilize United Way of Escambia County's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Eligible individuals may visit one of United Way's 7 convenient locations across the community to utilize this completely free service, and maximize their tax return with the assistance of an IRS-certified volunteer.

In 2018, United Way of Escambia County tax assistance services completed over 4,000 tax returns and saved tax payers \$873,700 in preparation fees. VITA volunteers underwent hours of training to attain their IRS-certification, and in turn, gave back 5,020 hours of service to the program and the community.

"VITA is such an important asset to our community," said Katrina Madden, UWEC Financial Stability Outreach Manager, "it allows individuals and families in our community to keep more money in their pockets." She added, "Whether it's utilized as savings, emergency funds, or helping families more comfortably access the healthcare or additional resources they need to be secure, it's an invaluable service."

Below is the list of VITA site locations, their open dates, and respective hours.

VITA TAX SITES

Pensacola State College (Main Campus) – Opens Jan 28

100 College Blvd., Pensacola, FL 32504, Building 98

- Monday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Tuesday – Friday: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m., Saturday: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Pensacola State College (Warrington) – Opens Feb 5

5555 US-98, Pensacola, FL 32507, Building 3600

- Tuesday – Thursday: 3 p.m. – 7 p.m. **Appointment Only*

Pensacola State College (Century)

440 E. Hecker Rd., Century, FL 32535, Computer Lab

- **Appointment Only*

Community Action Program Committee – Opens Feb 5

1380 N. Palafox St., Pensacola, FL 32501

- Tuesday & Thursday: 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. **Appointment Only*

Global Connections to Employment – Opens Feb 5

2001 N. E St., Pensacola, FL 32501

- Tuesday & Thursday: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. **Appointment Only*

Goodwill Easterseals – Opens Feb 6

1715 Olive Rd., Pensacola, FL 32514

- Friday: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., Saturday: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. **Appointment Only*

The Salvation Army – Opens Feb 6

1501 N. Q St., Pensacola, FL 32505

- Wednesday & Friday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. **Appointment Only*

Filers must bring the following documentation with them when filing taxes at one of the VITA sites:

- State or federal photo identification
- Social Security cards for all members of the household
- All W2s, 1095s, 1098s, and 1099s
- Childcare provider's information
- Investment statements and other tax forms
- Amounts of other income
- Bank account information for direct deposit
- Last year's tax return, if available

VITA program sponsors include Community Action Program Committee, Hancock Bank, Regions, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, Wells Fargo, Pensacola State College, the Escambia County School District, and the University of West Florida.

Promotional materials containing information about United Way of Escambia County's VITA program are available for distribution. To request these materials, or for any questions concerning the program, contact Katrina Madden, Financial Stability Program Outreach Manager, at vita@unitedwayescambia.org or call 850-434-3157.

United Way of Escambia County (UWEC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every citizen in our community. UWEC has operated locally for 94 years with a vision of a community United to create better opportunities for all. By investing in programs, participating in partnerships, and leveraging resources, UWEC works to meet a mission of Uniting our community to improve lives.

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