

For Immediate Release

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UNITED WAY OF ESCAMBIA COUNTY TO HOST VITA OPEN HOUSE FOR VOLUNTEERS

Pensacola, Fla. – October 5, 2018

United Way of Escambia County will be hosting an open house for those interested in supporting the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program through volunteerism. The open house will take place from 3:30 – 6 p.m. at Pensacola State College, Building 98 on Friday, October 12. Light refreshments will be served while attendees learn about the impact VITA has had in our community and how they can get involved through service opportunities.

Each year, United Way of Escambia County offers the VITA program to residents of Escambia County with an annual income of \$66,000 or less through an IRS grant. This service is completely free to those who come to one of the numerous local VITA sites for their tax needs.

VITA helps put money back into the pockets of the people and families who need it most. Just one hour of volunteering at a VITA location can help put \$500 back into a families pockets, strictly with what they are able to save on tax preparation fees. The average income of a VITA client is \$24,000, which qualifies them for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). This represents an additional \$1,200 that volunteers help tax payers receive. In total, that one hour of volunteerism through VITA can have a direct impact of \$1,700 for a family that needs it for healthcare, housing, childcare, food, or other additional costs.

“The main reason that I volunteer is that it allows me the opportunity to give back for the many opportunities I have received,” said Steve Buck, who has been volunteering with the program for two years. “United Way of Escambia County’s VITA program is a great service to the community and I am very proud to be a part of it.”

United Way of Escambia County is seeking volunteers capable of filling one of three roles: Client Greeter, Tax Preparer, or Quality Reviewers. VITA volunteers come from all walks of life, and the program offers a number of benefits including flexible volunteer hours and receiving IRS certification.

To RSVP to the VITA Open House, or to learn more about the program, contact Financial Stability Program Outreach Manager, Katrina Madden, at 850-912-8245 or katrina@unitedwayescambia.org.

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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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