

United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra
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**United Way of Northern
Nevada and the Sierra**

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Nevada State Treasurer Kate Marshall to Recognize Volunteers at United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra

WHO: Nevada State Treasurer Kate Marshall, and representatives from U.S. Senator Harry Reid's office, Financial Stability Partnership of Northern Nevada and United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra (UWNNS)

WHAT: Marshall and representatives from U.S. Senator Harry Reid's office will attend a Volunteer Recognition Celebration to honor volunteers of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). VITA is a partnership between the Internal Revenue Service, UWNNS' "Earn It, Keep It, Save It" program and the Financial Stability Partnership of Northern Nevada. This past year, 185 VITA volunteers provided free tax preparation services to low to moderate-income families in northern Nevada who earn \$50,000 or less annually. Each volunteer is a trained and certified tax preparer.

VITA sites and volunteers are an important way for low-income working families to learn about and access the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Each year thousands of Nevadans miss out on the EITC because they don't know they qualify or don't know how to claim the credit. EITC is a federal income tax credit available to working individuals and families. It is the nation's largest and most effective federal aid program. Eligibility for the EITC is based on income level, marital status, and number of dependent children. As an individual or family's earned income rises, the amount of EITC they are eligible for also rises, providing an incentive to obtain and maintain employment. The amount begins to decrease as an individual or family reaches an income level that allows them a measure of self-sufficiency.

This year, VITA volunteers helped prepare 3,376 tax returns, an increase of 15.38% over prior year, that resulted in northern Nevadans receiving a total of \$1.35 million in EITC, more than \$4.7 million in total tax refunds, \$2.3 million in total tax credits, which include child care, elderly and education credits, along with EITC, totals over \$2.83 million. VITA Volunteers collectively provide one of the largest economic impacts for the local region and on average, each volunteer hour brings back \$1,500 to the community in tax credits.

VITA sites were located in Washoe, Douglas, Carson, Lyon, Mineral, Humboldt, Elko, Churchill and El Dorado counties.

WHEN: 4:30 p.m., Friday, May 17

WHERE: UWNNS, located at 639 Isbell Rd., Suite 460 in Reno.

About Financial Stability Partnership of Northern Nevada

By partnering with dozens of organizations, the Financial Stability Partnership of Northern Nevada strengthens individuals and families in northern Nevada and the Lake Tahoe region by coordinating and promoting programs that support financial education, maximizing income, asset building and preservation, savings, establishing credit, debt reduction, public awareness, workforce development, home ownership, access to public and private benefits and entrepreneurship. The FSPNN is guided by a volunteer Coordinating Committee, Chaired by Nancy Brown of Charles Schwab Bank. The Earn It Keep Save It subcommittee responsible for the region's VITA efforts is chaired by Kevin Quint, Join Together Northern Nevada. Key funders for the FSPNN include Charles Schwab Bank, Wells Fargo Bank, and United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra.

About United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra

The foundation that nurtures and supports healthy lives is made up of three, interconnected 'building blocks' – education, financial stability and health. United Way is ideally suited to create positive, lasting change by addressing all three areas as one – through proper expertise, capacity and relationships. Join us! Bring your passion, knowledge and resources to get things done all across our community. We all win when a child succeeds in school, when a neighborhood turns around and when workers have solid jobs. For more information, call 775-322-8668 or visit www.uwnns.org.

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