

**United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra**  
639 Isbell Rd., Suite 460  
Reno, NV 89509  
775-322-8668  
www.uwnns.org



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Nevada and the Sierra**

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Media Contact: Scott Walquist, KPS3 Marketing  
phone: 775-686-2116 cell: 775-287-6788  
scott@kps3.com

## **United Way Helps Northern Nevadans Receive More Than \$1.8 Million During 2015 Tax Season**

**Reno, Nev.** — During the 2015 tax season, United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra (UWNNS) helped to coordinate the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program in Elko, Churchill, Mineral, Humboldt and Washoe Counties, as well as Carson City. VITA volunteers, in partnership with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), provided tax preparation assistance for taxpayers and helped Nevadans locate free online resources at Intuit and MyFreeTaxes.com.

Nearly 1,500 tax returns were completed at no charge for low to moderate-income individuals and families saving Nevadans more than \$315,000 in tax preparation fees. These 1,500 tax returns equaled \$1,835,799 in tax refunds. As part of the program, individuals and families received help from certified tax preparer volunteers in determining their Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) eligibility as well as other tax credits, including Child Tax Credits. Total EITC refunds were nearly \$500,000 and Child Tax Credits amounted to more than \$600,000 this year.

“At United Way, we know that family stability is an important step for building a successful future,” said Karen Barsell, chief executive officer and president of UWNNS. “Linking Nevadans to free tax preparation is an important service for families in need. This program and the wonderful volunteers have helped hundreds of northern Nevadans receive tax refunds that are often used for basic needs including housing and food.”

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

UWNNS has successfully served northern Nevada for more than 70 years. With a goal to double the number of children in northern Nevada who read proficiently at the conclusion of third grade, UWNNS concentrates on four key pillars needed to achieve the goal: early development and learning, kindergarten readiness and early literacy, early grade success and strengthening families. For more information, call 775-322-8668 or visit [www.uwnns.org](http://www.uwnns.org).

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