

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

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United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra Looking for Volunteers to Assist with Tax Preparations

Reno, Nev. —United Way of Northern Nevada and the Sierra (UWNNS) and the “Earn It, Keep It, Save It” partnership is seeking volunteers to assist in preparing tax returns in 2014 at various Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites throughout northern Nevada. VITA sites provide free tax preparation to individuals and families earning less than \$50,000 per year using trained, certified, volunteer tax preparers.

VITA sites provide a service to lower-income taxpayers by offering free income tax return preparation during the tax filing season. VITA volunteers help members of the community receive the best refund possible. Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds are welcome and will receive free tax training in cooperation with community partners and the IRS. Good computer skills are recommended to assist in preparing and transmitting tax returns through the IRS E-file program.

Last year during the tax season, nearly 200 volunteer tax preparers helped prepare more than 3,300 tax returns, bringing more than \$4.7 million in federal tax refunds back to the local communities throughout the northern Nevada region. Additionally, the volunteers helped taxpayers save more than \$830,000 in tax preparation costs — an increased savings of nearly 42 percent over the prior tax season.

This year, there is a goal of 250 VITA volunteers preparing and submitting 3,600 tax returns.

There are three ways to get involved as a VITA volunteer:

- Be trained as a tax preparer and help to prepare tax returns.
- Become a site coordinator, prepare tax returns, as well as supervise and manage all aspects of the VITA site.
- Be a greeter at a VITA site, greeting taxpayers while providing initial forms and answering general questions.

“When volunteers choose to be a VITA site volunteer, it shows their commitment to the local community and its residents,” said Karen Barsell, chief executive officer and president of UWNNS. “The volunteers learn valuable and useful skills, and they will regularly work with other volunteers who also want to help others get ahead. Volunteers see the immediate effect of their hard work, time and effort to improve a family’s life.

For more information on how to volunteer or to sign up, please contact Tim Wilcox, AmeriCorps financial educator, at 775-325-8905 or by email at uwnns.fsp.vita@gmail.com.

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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