

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

United Way of Northern California  
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of Northern California

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### **United Way of Northern California offers free tax preparation**

*Services provided through Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program*

REDDING, CA (January 3, 2017) — United Way of Northern California (UWNC) will offer free tax preparation services to Shasta County residents, February 6 through April 17, 2018, through the Internal Revenue Service's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

The VITA program offers tax preparation and e-filing to individuals and families who make less than \$60,000 a year. The program runs with the help of volunteers who are trained and certified according to IRS standards. This is UWNC's first year hosting as the Shasta County VITA site; previously, the program was offered through Goodwill.

VITA helps put earnings back in the pockets of low- to moderate-income workers in the form of tax refunds and tax credits. The free service also saves taxpayers the expense of tax preparation services, which average about \$300.

"Paying for taxes can feel very overwhelming for low-income residents, and many are unaware of accessible tax benefits like the Earned Income Tax Credit, which can qualify them for as much as \$6,000 back. The VITA program allows them to keep the money they work hard to make, so they can get ahead and achieve financial stability," said Christina Gutierrez, Communications & Outreach Specialist for UWNC.

VITA tax preparation will be held by appointment only in the UWNC Community Room, located at 2280 Benton Drive, Building B, in Redding. To make an appointment, call 530-241-7521, ex 101.

#### **About United Way of Northern California:**

**United Way of Northern California (UWNC) was established in Redding in 1953 and serves nine counties: Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama and Trinity. Its mission is to fight for the education, income and health of all residents in the community. UWNC raises funds for non-profit agencies and operates two 24/7 human services helplines: 2-1-1 Shasta and 2-1-1 Tehama, collectively known as 2-1-1 NorCal. UWNC also operates Volunteer NorCal, a website that connects volunteers to agencies (volunteernorcal.org). For more information, visit [www.norcalunitedway.org](http://www.norcalunitedway.org).**

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