NEWS RELEASE

Lucas Camuso-Stall Sr. Director, Public Relations & Advocacy lucas.stall@unitedwaytoledo.org (419) 254-4652 office | (765) 977-3712 mobile



Tax Day Delayed, Free Tax Filing Services Still Available

[Mar. 25, 2021, TOLEDO, OH] – With Tax Day now delayed to May 17, hundreds of residents across Lucas, Ottawa and Wood County still have time to file their taxes for free, with the help of United Way of Greater Toledo (UWGT) and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation of Toledo (LISC).

Each tax season, UWGT and LISC come together to offer individuals and families the opportunity to file their taxes in-person, at no cost, with the help of a Volunteer Income Tax Assistant for what the two organizations call, Free Tax Prep. To qualify for an in-person filing, your income must be less than \$57,000 a year.

UWGT has already filled most in-person tax filing appointments at participating LISC sites, even with the recent deadline extension. However, there are virtual appointments still available, where individuals can file their taxes with the online help of a Volunteer Income Tax Assistant. This is made possible via LISC's Financial Opportunity Center at ProMedica's Ebeid Center. To schedule a virtual appointment, call 567-585-0469 or email FOC@promedica.org. You need a computer, an email address and access to internet / Zoom.

UWGT also wants to remind community members that "MyFreeTaxes.com" is available online, to anyone with a device or internet connection, no matter your yearly income. This is ideal for individuals comfortable filing their taxes independently. "MyFreeTaxes.com" is a free tax filing software, powered by a partnership between United Way and TaxSlayer.

"United Way 2-1-1 assists individuals in registering for appointments, while LISC Toledo operates the Free Tax Prep locations, as well as manages the Volunteer Income Tax Assistants. We are so appreciative of their great work and strong partnership," said Jill Bunge, director of community impact at UWGT.

Last year, Free Tax Prep returned \$2,698,167 to 2,001 individuals. As of early March, 559 individuals have already been assisted, with \$906,000 in tax returns delivered back to the community.

"We are here to help people navigate the complex process of filing taxes. By offering this service for free, we can allow folks to keep their full refund, which often-times saves a person or family from going into poverty," said Shaulonda Jones, program assistant at LISC Toledo.

In 2020, due to the pandemic, over 900 in-person tax appointments were canceled. However, with Tax Day last year being delayed until July, LISC was able to reschedule these appointments, with safe and socially distanced precautions in place.

"We do not want a single person to miss out on receiving their tax credits or getting their full refund. We want your money being spent on the services a family needs, rather than pricy tax software or consultations," said Jones.

For more information on United Way 2-1-1, and available in-person tax filing appointments, visit www.211nwo.org and click "tax appointments" or dial two, one, one.

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