



United Way of Lane County

MEDIA ALERT

DATE: February 5, 2007
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KICK OFF TOMORROW FOR TAX ASSISTANCE PROJECT. UNITED WAY TO OFFER FIRST EVENING SITE.

Annual project aims to help eligible taxpayers claim over \$5 million in tax credits and refunds

WHAT: **KICK OFF FOR FREE TAX ASSISTANCE SITES:** Low- and moderate income workers will receive free assistance with Earned Income Tax Credits and Child Care Credits. City Councilors and Tax-Aide representatives will be on hand to discuss the economic importance of this effort and how people can find free Tax-Aide sites.

WHEN: Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

WHERE: United Way of Lane County office at 3171 Gateway Loop in Springfield

The impact of this work affects all segments of the Lane County economy. In 2007, eligible taxpayers collectively received over \$5 million for housing, food, transportation, and more.

Visual and interview opportunities will be available as local residents will be having tax professionals help them file their taxes, free of charge. Besides eligible tax filers, the following will be present on Wednesday:

- Andrea Ortiz, Eugene City Councilor
- Christine Lundberg, Springfield City Councilor
- Sharon Looney, AARP Tax-Aide District 10 Coordinator
- Virginia Callister, AARP Tax-Aide Promotions Coordinator

Information:

- Free tax preparation sites will be open Feb. 4 - April 15 throughout Lane County.
- Tax-Aide volunteers provide free assistance filing returns and applying for tax benefits, most notably the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).
- EITC is a tax benefit for people who earn low to moderate wages. Eligible people can reduce or eliminate their income tax or get money back.
- Some individuals are eligible for up to \$4,000 but don't claim it because they are unaware of the program and/or don't know how to file the necessary forms.
- Local organizations are working together to create this public awareness effort encouraging low- and moderate-income people to claim their money. Partners include: Cities of Eugene and Springfield, AARP Foundation and Tax-Aide, United Way of Lane County, and Selco Community Credit Union.
- Free tax sites and dates are listed at www.unitedwaylane.org.

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