
Improving Lives in Vanderburgh, Warrick and Spencer Counties

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United Way of Southwestern Indiana Offers VITA Free Tax Preparation to Local Community

The United Way of Southwestern Indiana will offer free tax preparation through its VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program, for individuals and families with an annual household income of \$54,000 or less. Through United Way's VITA program, IRS certified volunteers provide free basic tax return preparation via electronic filing. Volunteers screen taxpayers for special tax credits which they may qualify for such as Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Child Tax Credit, and Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled.

This year, OneMain Financial has provided a grant to partially fund United Way of Southwestern Indiana's VITA program. "At OneMain, we are committed to helping people achieve financial success. We are proud to support a program dedicated to helping hard working families navigate the tax preparation process and reach their financial goals," said Trish Weaver, OneMain Philanthropy Director.

VITA, a national program, was brought to the community by United Way SWI in 2007. Last year, 44 VITA volunteers donated 1,320 hours of service by preparing almost 900 tax returns, which generated more than \$1.2 million in tax refunds for VITA clients.

Amy Canterbury, President & CEO of United Way SWI said, "Our VITA program puts real dollars back into the budgets of our clients. This is important because it helps create greater financial stability and builds a stronger community by offering a high quality tax preparation service to individuals and families who otherwise would have to pay out of pocket to file taxes. Clients can use the money they save to meet their own financial goals. We're very grateful for OneMain Financial and the grant they have provided to help fund our VITA program this year. With their financial support, we have the opportunity to expand the VITA program and help more hard working families and individuals prepare their tax returns in our community."

This year, United Way SWI will operate five VITA tax preparation sites, including a new location in Warrick County. Services will begin on January 29, 2018, and end on April 17, 2018. For a full schedule of VITA tax site locations, hours, contact information, along with a list of what documents to bring, visit www.unitedwayswi.org/supported-programs/vita-program/. Those interested in serving as a VITA volunteer, should contact Birdie Harrison at 812.421.7475.

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About United Way of Southwestern Indiana

United Way fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every individual in our community. The 501(c) 3 organization serves at the center of a network of partner agencies and programs that address immediate issues facing thousands of local people in Vanderburgh, Warrick and Spencer Counties. To learn more about United Way's work in the community, visit www.unitedwayswi.org.