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UNITED WAY FREE TAX PREP SAVES AND SECURES A TOTAL OF \$12 MILLION FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS

Cincinnati (June 11, 2021) United Way of Greater Cincinnati saved local taxpayers \$2 million in filing fees and helped them obtain \$10 million in refunds this tax season through its Free Tax Prep program.

More than 300 volunteers helped file nearly 6,800 tax returns.

“United Way is focused on the financial well-being of local residents and this program not only helps them save fees, but it ensures they receive their full refunds,” said Moira Weir, president and CEO of United Way. “They’ve earned it with their hard work; our volunteers are committed to making sure they get it.”

Donald Albright, who works as a courier and has relied on Free Tax Prep for 10-plus years, was among the taxpayers at the Madisonville site expressing gratitude. “They are extremely nice,” he said. “They seem to be extremely knowledgeable. That’s what keeps bringing me back—the comfort level.”

Each filer saves approximately \$300 in prep fees. Tax professionals ensure those who qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit receive their full refund and, this year, make sure they claim 2020 stimulus payments.

This year presented challenges, from extending the filing deadline to changes in rules due to 95 percent of low-income households suffered and layoff or income loss in 2020.

Free Tax Prep will continue through summer for those who have yet to file. Volunteers will help filers reclaim stimulus dollars, the advanced Child Tax Credit payments and other credits. Summer site locations can be found at www.uwgc.org or by calling 211. File online for free at myfreetaxes.com.

Those with low to moderate incomes who live in the Greater Cincinnati area qualify. In limited cases, income restrictions may apply based on total income and family size.

United Way partners with the Internal Revenue Service and many local organizations that host sites. United Way volunteers help those sites run smoothly.

James Albert, a retired computer programmer, has volunteered about 10 hours a week for about 15 years.

“I enjoy numbers and just wanted to help out,” Albert said. “It’s rewarding when a person says ‘thank you’ and acknowledges that you’re helping them out.”

About United Way

For more than 100 years, United Way of Greater Cincinnati has developed, supported and strengthened social systems that improve lives in Greater Cincinnati communities. UWGC provides relief for families in crisis, supports families as they establish stronger foundations, and revitalizes systems of support for long-term economic resiliency. United Way is uniquely positioned to bring together and harness the collective power of social service agencies, governments, businesses, donors and more to tackle ingrained, persistent, community-wide problems in a coordinated, comprehensive way that maximizes donor dollars. The generosity of our community, combined with our more than 100 years of experience bringing people together, enables us to support families in a 10-county area across Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. Additional information about our community impact is available at UWGC.org #LiveUnited