

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FREE TAX PREPARATION AVAILABLE
THROUGH RAPPAHANNOCK UNITED WAY**

Fredericksburg, VA, January 22, 2014 –

Starting February 1, 2014, Rappahannock United Way (RUW) will be offering free tax preparation for households that worked in 2013 and whose income was less than \$58,000.

Volunteer Tax Sites are part of the largest anti-poverty program in our nation, bringing an estimated **\$1 billion** into the homes of low-to-moderate-income working families. Locally, the Rappahannock Region Financial Stability Coalition tackles financial stability, led by Rappahannock United Way. Rappahannock United Way organizes and trains volunteers to prepare taxes free for community members who make **\$58,000** a year or less.

During the 2013 tax season, volunteers filed **1,261** tax returns in Planning District 16, with the total refunds for these individuals and families amounting to **\$1.7 million**. Because these taxpayers chose the Coalition's free tax preparation, they collectively saved **\$215,000** on preparation fees. This money was then available for paying bills, reducing debt, paying for an education, building savings, or even buying a car. These refunds and tax prep savings have a lasting impact on the lives of community members.

All services are provided by volunteers under the guidance of IRS-certified staff and volunteers.

Tax preparation begins February 1 and runs through April 15. Sites will be open day time and evenings, 6 days a week, at a variety of locations in the City of Fredericksburg, and the counties of Caroline, King George, Spotsylvania and Stafford. For a more complete listing, visit <http://www.ruwfreetaxes.org/>.

*Taxpayers must bring necessary documentation to receive assistance filing taxes:

- Driver's License or Photo Identification Card
- Social Security card or Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) for taxpayer and all dependents
- Copies of all W2, 1098, 1099 forms
- Amounts of any other income
- Childcare provider's name, address, and tax identification number
- Amounts and dates of any estimated or other tax payments made
- Notice CP1378 or the amount of Economic Stimulus Payment received
- Spouse in person, if filing jointly
- Proof of bank account for direct deposit of refund (voided check)

For more information, visit <http://www.ruwfreetaxes.org/> or call (540) 373-0041 ext. 300.

About Rappahannock United Way: Founded in 1939, Rappahannock United Way is a local nonprofit organization serving the city of Fredericksburg, and the counties of Caroline, King George, Spotsylvania and Stafford. Rappahannock United Way is working to advance the common good by focusing on Education, Income and Health. These are the building blocks for a good life—a quality education that leads to a stable job, enough income to support a family through retirement, and good health. Our goal is to create long-lasting changes that prevent problems from happening in the first place.

We invite our community to be part of the change. Together, united, we can inspire hope and create opportunities for a better tomorrow. That's what it means to LIVE UNITED.