

# United Way Galveston County Mainland

Stronger Together

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## VITA

### Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

#### Financial Stability

As part of its commitment to addressing key community issues, United Way of Galveston County is developing strategies to positively impact the financial stability of our citizens. Our goal is to help working individuals and families' achieve financial independence by providing opportunities and education to build, save, and protect their financial assets. The VITA Tax-Aide program serves as the focal point for this effort.



The VITA program offers free tax help to low-to moderate-income families who cannot prepare their own tax returns and individuals who are elderly, disabled, or speak limited English. Certified volunteers sponsored by various organizations receive training to help prepare basic tax returns in communities across the country. Most sites offer free electronic filing (e-filing). Individuals taking advantage of the e-file program will receive their refunds in half the time compared to returns filed on paper.

Many in our community don't have access to affordable tax preparation services or are unaware of programs like Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) that could put thousands of dollars back in their hands and into our local economy. VITA helps taxpayers obtain eligible tax credits and deductions. Last year, VITA volunteers prepared 646 tax returns, brought back to families \$299,829 in EITC funds and \$928,831 in overall federal refunds plus saved families over \$65,000 in tax preparation fees. By increasing income to working families the VITA program directly effects the family's or individual's ability to become or remain financially stable.

#### Items you need to bring to the VITA sites to have your tax returns prepared:

- Proof of identification
- Social security cards for you, your spouse and dependants
- Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependants on the tax return
- Current year's tax package
- Wage and earnings statement(s) Form W-2,W-2G,1099R, from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from bank(s)
- A copy of last year's federal and state returns
- Bank routing numbers and account numbers for Direct Deposit
- Total paid for daycare provider and the daycare provider's tax EIN #
- To file taxes electronically on a married-filing-joint return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms

The local VITA program is the first step of the Financial Stability Partnership outlined by United Way of America. The VITA program proves that a small investment by United Way and the community can reap amazing rewards. The VITA program continues to see significant growth and generate a substantial return back into the Galveston County community.

#### VITA Sites in Galveston County:

**Macedonia Baptist Church**

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY/CALL FOR APPOINTMENT

2920 Avenue M ½, Galveston

832-329-9092 contact Marla Boyd

**Sunshine Center, Inc.**

AARP VITA SITE: Monday 1-5/ Tuesday & Friday 9:30-1:30

DISASTER LOSS (Amend 2008 returns) SITE: BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

1726 21st Street, Galveston

409-763-5029

**Island Community Center**

4700 Broadway, Galveston

9 am – 5 pm, Mon – Fri

**Coastal Community Federal Credit Union**

2302 Church Street, Galveston

2600 FM 1764, La Marque

Call for appt: (409) 765-6067

**San Leon Community Church**

805 10th Street, San Leon

Call for appt: (281) 559-2170

**United Way Galveston County Mainland**

922 14th St N, Texas City

Call for appt/By appointment only: (409) 948-4211

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