



\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\*

Contact: Liz Dupont-Diehl, Vice President of Development and Public Relations  
(203) 667 5956, [dupont-diehl@careerresources.org](mailto:dupont-diehl@careerresources.org)

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### **Volunteers Needed for Tax Assistance Program**

BRIDGEPORT – Career Resources is seeking volunteers for its free tax preparation program, which helps working people maximize their incomes and connects them to financial literacy and other services.

Help is needed to assist people prepare and file tax returns; no tax knowledge is required and training is provided. Volunteers can choose their hours. Participants who qualify are urged to claim the Earned Income Tax Credit, or EITC, which provides a refund to workers who meet income guidelines; they also save the cost of having to pay a tax preparer.

“The EITC has been called one of the greatest tools to reward work and end poverty,” said Career Resources President/CEO Scott K. Wilderman. “And the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance services make it even more effective. They’ve returned hundreds of thousands of dollars to the community and lifted hundreds of people out of poverty.”

Volunteers will be trained and certified by the Internal Revenue Service, and then work two hours or more per week, using a computer-based software program to assist individuals with completing and filing their tax returns. Filers typically bring all relevant paperwork to the appointment. There are no income or residency requirements, but filers with complicated returns may be referred to a professional.

“Many people are pleased and surprised with how much they are getting back, or how quickly they will get their refund,” said Heriberto Cajigas, Career Resources’ Assistant Vice President for Programs.

Anyone wishing to become trained and work as a volunteer should call Mr. Cajigas at (203) 953-3256.

Career Resources, Inc. is a non-profit serving Southwestern Connecticut employers and jobseekers. Programs include:

- CTWorks One Stop Career Centers, serving jobseekers with information, assistance, and training;
- Alternative Incarceration Centers for women and men;
- Fathers for Life, with parenting, life skills and financial management;
- Adult Education for former offenders and other adult learners;
- Maturity Works, job placement and subsidized work for those over age 55 who meet income guidelines; training for our-of-school youth;
- and STRIVE, a three-week attitudinal work readiness training course that includes job placement and retention support.

All services are offered at no cost to customers. For more information, or to make a tax-deductible contribution, please visit the CTWorks/One Stop Career Center at 350 Fairfield Ave. in Bridgeport, or [www.careerresources.org](http://www.careerresources.org).

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