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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Valley VITA seeks volunteers for the 2017-2018 Tax Season

Valley VITA is seeking Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Volunteers for the 2017 tax season (February through April 2018). All volunteers complete a fully certified IRS training and serve in an environment of support with other trained volunteers. Volunteers should be above the age of 18 and have a desire to work with their friends and neighbors to create a richer, more financially secure community. **No prior tax preparation or technical experience is required.**

Volunteers are being sought for all tax site locations, including United Way of Greater Augusta, Stuart's Draft High School, and Booker T. Washington Community Center. Training for volunteers is provided, and VITA staff provide support and guidance throughout tax season. Of the volunteering experience, Paul Vaughan of United Way of Greater Augusta says, "all someone really needs to have is basic computer knowledge and to enjoy interacting with other people."

Valley VITA volunteers have given 5,669 hours since 2010, saving community members \$553,000 in filing fees resulting in a combined economic impact of \$4.5 Million. Valley VITA volunteers see firsthand the value of their time and service.

A volunteer training and information session will be held this Saturday, December 2nd from 10am – 2pm at the United Way of Greater Augusta office at 24 Idlewood Blvd in Staunton. Those interested in this opportunity should contact Paul Vaughan at 540.885.1229 or visit www.unitedwayga.org/valley-vita for more information.

About the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program

The VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program helps families by using volunteers that will be preparing tax returns for clients for free, because many people cannot afford to pay for this service. The Earned Income Tax Credit, one of the largest anti-poverty programs in the U.S. and the Child Tax Credit lifted more than 10.1 million people out of poverty, half of them children in 2014. Unfortunately, up to 10 billion dollars goes unclaimed each tax season. Collaborative partners also include: City of Staunton Recreation and Parks and IT departments, Stuarts Draft High School, Augusta County Schools, DuPont Community Credit Union, and many others.

About United Way of Greater Augusta

United Way of Greater Augusta is part of a national network of more than 1,300 locally governed organizations that work to create lasting positive changes in communities and people's lives. Building on more than a century of service as the nation's preeminent community-based fundraiser, United Way engages the community to identify the underlying causes of the most significant local issues, develops strategies and pulls together financial and human resources to address them, and measures the results. United Way of Greater Augusta tackle issues based on local needs. Common focus areas include helping children and youth succeed, improving access to health care, promoting self-sufficiency, and strengthening families. For more information about United Way of Greater Augusta, please visit: www.unitedwayga.org.