

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**ALAMEDA COUNTY LOW-MODERATE INCOME TAX FILERS RECEIVE PROFESSIONAL
QUALITY TAX SERVICES AT NO COST**

Alameda County Social Services Agency Builds Bridges to Economic Stability for 14 Years

WHAT: Oakland, CA. — When they open their doors January 21, 2015, the volunteers of the Alameda County Social Services Agency’s [Volunteer Income Tax Assistance \(SSA-VITA\)](#) Program will offer the widest range of services in the program’s 14-year history.

“Many of our volunteers have been volunteering with the program for 14 years helping taxpayers build a stronger financial foundation. These folks are experienced, seasoned tax preparers,” said Lori A. Cox, the Agency’s Director.

SSA-VITA now offers preparation for Married-Filing Separately returns, and Certified Acceptance Agents (CAAs) are available to assist clients complete Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) applications. Volunteers have vowed to break last year’s record of over 2,100 returns processed and \$3.2 million in refunds returned to the County’s economy. Last year the Social Services Agency recorded its largest single return of \$26,218; the family intended to use their tax bonanza as a down payment on a home. This tax season the SSA will continue helping individuals and families receive the largest refunds possible by claiming the credits they have earned.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is provided to working families and single or married individuals. Individuals and households whose 2014 income was \$53,000 or less qualify for the EITC and no cost tax preparation services. Additionally, families and individuals may be eligible for the child tax credit along with EITC. With the help of a grant from the United Way of the Bay Area, SSA’s VITA volunteers complete required IRS training and at least 30 hours of evening and weekend service.

A full menu of services provided at tax preparation sites include: expanded hours of operation; on-site health care and CalFresh enrollment; direct deposit, banking and credit union services; financial education and asset building resources; Tax Preparation (drop-off and pick-up service) and ITIN application completion.

WHEN: Dates of operation: January 21 – April 15, 2015 (Closed February 16, 2015)
Hours of operation: Mondays and Wednesdays: 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Saturdays: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

WHERE: Thomas L. Berkley Self-Sufficiency Center, 2000 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland CA 94612
Enterprise Office, 8477 Enterprise Way, Oakland CA 94621
Eden Area Multi-Service Center, 24100 Amador Street, Hayward CA 95444

WHO: Approximately 150 IRS-certified tax preparers. #