

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

The Island University

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Students to Provide Voluntary Income Tax Assistance to Low Income Families

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas –Accounting students from the College of Business at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi will assist low income families in the Coastal Bend prepare their tax returns throughout the tax season as part of the Internal Revenue Service’s Voluntary Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

Most families earning less than \$50,000, military families (in conjunction with the Armed Forces Tax council), and taxpayers 60 and older (generally in conjunction with AARP sites) are eligible to have their tax returns prepared for free. If married and filing jointly, both spouses must be present. Anyone needing assistance should bring:

- Government issued Photo ID (such as a driver’s license)
- Social Security cards or ITIN numbers for taxpayer, spouses and dependents
- Birth dates for primary, secondary and dependents on the tax return
- Wage and earning statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099)
- Proof of day-care expenses paid in 2011 including: provider’s name, address, and federal ID number
- A copy of last year’s Federal and State returns (if available)
- Bank routing numbers and account numbers if you want your refund direct deposited
- Other relevant information about income and expenses

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Locations offering VITA services through Tuesday, April 17:

- Goodwill, Flour Bluff: Thursdays, 5:30-8 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m.-6 p.m.
- Goodwill Store, S. Port Avenue: Monday and Thursday, 1:30-6:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon
- Boys & Girls Club on Greenwood: Tuesday and Thursday, 3-8 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Del Mar College, Venters Business Building: Tuesday and Thursday, 2-6:30 p.m.
- Coastal Community & Teachers Credit Union: Monday and Wednesday, from 3-7 p.m.; 9 a.m. to noon (Saturday) (Beginning Monday, Jan. 30)
- Coastal Community & Teachers Credit Union Drop-off Sites: Monday-Friday, 1-5 p.m. (Beginning Monday, Jan. 30)
6810 Saratoga
14001 Northwest Blvd.
2030 Highway 181, Ste G (Portland)
2310 East Main Street (Alice)
422 S. Main (Freer)

“The VITA program offers current accounting students at the University a monumental opportunity to acquire real hands-on tax experience,” said Kelly Cholick, VITA project coordinator for the United Way of the Coastal Bend and a former accounting student of Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. “From the perspective of an accounting student, the opportunity to actually prepare tax returns for real tax payers is a priceless, real-world experience.”

During 2011, the VITA program prepared 1,876 returns (compared to 1,289 the year before) for more than \$2.6 million in refunds for the community. Additional information on the VITA program is available at <http://www.uwcb.org/>.

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