

YWCA of Metropolitan Dallas celebrates Earned Income Tax Credit Awareness Day

YW provides free Tax Credit Education workshops to help working families maximize their income tax refund and keep more of their hard-earned money for immediate financial needs and long-term asset development.

DALLAS, Texas (January 27, 2011) – This Friday, January 28th YWCA of Metropolitan Dallas (YW), the IRS, and other nonprofit organizations around the country will celebrate Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Awareness Day to alert the community about the benefits of filing for their EITC this tax season. EITC is a financial boost for working people hit by hard economic times. Eligibility is based on several factors including the source and amount of income, or combined income if married, whether the worker has qualifying children and number of children. Workers without children also may qualify for EITC. Workers who earned less than \$48,362 from wages, self-employment, or farming last year, may qualify for the EITC and get back as much as \$5,666.

As part of YW's Financial Empowerment program – a proven asset-building initiative that equips participants with the necessary skills to make the right financial choices, moving them one step closer to financial freedom – YW provides free one-hour Tax Credit Education workshops to help low-to-moderate income families maximize their income tax refund and keep more of their hard-earned money for immediate financial needs and long-term asset development. YW Tax Credit Education workshops educate participants about seven tax credits they may qualify to receive, promote the use of free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites, and discuss the risks of using costly Refund Anticipation Loans (RALs) and Checks (RACs).

In 2008, two out of three Texas EITC filers paid for costly RALs or RACs. With paid tax prep, RALs, and RACs draining \$350 million from Texans' EITC refunds every year, and one in four eligible Texans failing to claim their EITC, leaving \$1.4 to \$1.9 billion unclaimed in 2009, it is important that the community works together to educate our workers about the importance of tax credits and the use of free VITA sites.

YW's Tax Credit Education workshops are free of charge, located throughout Dallas, and available in English and Spanish. For more information about YW Tax Credit Education workshops or other YW programs and services, contact YW at 214.584.2335 or email info@ywcadallas.org.

EITC. You earned it. Now file, claim it and get it.

About YW:

YWCA of Metropolitan Dallas (YW) is dedicated to addressing the most critical needs for women in Dallas, offering programs in the areas of financial education and tools, pregnancy and parenting education, and women's health services. YW's goal is to educate and guide women toward becoming self-sufficient.

At YW we work for women, we volunteer for women, we advocate for women, we raise funds to change women's lives, and we work with all in the community who share our vision of empowering women. Visit www.ywcadallas.org to learn more.

About United Way of Metropolitan Dallas:

United Way of Metropolitan Dallas is the largest non-governmental funder of health and human services in Dallas, Collin, Rockwall and southern Denton counties. Locally governed and volunteer-led, UWMD is currently working to create long-term community impact in the key areas of education, income and health. Visit www.unitedwaydallas.org to learn more.