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TEAM VITA TAX CLINIC ENDS SEASON AT \$300,000 MARK

Derby, CT-April 17, 2008 - \$300,000 plus has been refunded by IRS to 275 Lower Naugatuck Valley and surrounding area taxpayers who had their 2007 income tax returns prepared and electronically filed by the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program provided at TEAM offices in Derby.

The federal refunds amounted to \$266,718, the state refunds were \$26,420 and \$27,900 in stimulus payments for a total of \$321,058. Thirteen percent of the total number tax returns filed received better than \$3,000 each in Federal rebates.

Ten IRS trained VITA volunteers' prepared 275 tax returns for Valley residents. In addition, to assisting tax filers within the VITA site, volunteers provided education, outreach and tax filing services for the stimulus rebate package to homebound and institutionalized seniors. The volunteers contributed a total of 459.25 hours to the program valued at \$8,959.96. Independent Sector, a Washington, D.C.-based coalition of philanthropic organizations dedicated to strengthening the non profit sector, has announced that the 2007 estimate for the value of a volunteer hour has reached \$19.51, which increased from \$18.77 per hour in 2006. The 2007 VITA volunteers were Diane O'Brien, Wendy Redzep, Ed Sutherland, Nethia Joyner, Jaime Fields, Irene Kiraithe, Nancy Valentine, John Harwood, Dave Rabinove and Shannon Yannes.

The Internal Revenue Service's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is free and educates people about tax credits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which can

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provide significant refunds that can help people build their assets. By providing a tax service that lower income families cannot afford, VITA volunteers also make families and individuals aware of federal and state income tax credits they might otherwise miss out on.

Richard Knoll, President and CEO of TEAM, said, many working families don't claim the tax credits they are entitled to "Many taxpayers eligible for these credits are not aware of the deductions they are entitled to. Our volunteers have been educated about them, and the money makes a big difference in the lives of the people we serve." He further states, "We are delighted with the amount of the tax refunds and are most appreciative and grateful to the volunteer tax preparers who make this program a reality for the residents of our communities."

TEAM Inc. is a private, non-profit corporation whose mission is to connect individuals and families with solutions that lead to well-being, self-sufficiency and full participation in the community. It aims to achieve its mission by conducting activities that address the needs of economically disadvantaged individuals and families including resource mobilization, education, advocacy and service delivery. TEAM programs serve the communities of Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Derby, Milford, Orange, Oxford, Shelton, Seymour and Woodbridge.