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Volunteer Tax Center A Success in First Year

Derby, CT, July 22, 2006— TEAM helped 89 people file their taxes successfully this year through its new Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) clinic.

The new VITA center provided free tax preparation for residents of the Valley, Milford, and Amity who make low to moderate income. Trained volunteers prepared returns.

TEAM's VITA center helped residents secure \$119,631 in refunds of which \$59,419 were Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC) and \$19,272 were Child Care Tax Credits (CCTC). Half of the 89 people who had returns done received the EITC.

“Many low-income people are unaware of the EITC credit, or are discouraged by the cost of filing,” said Richard Knoll, TEAM President. “Often they feel incorrectly that they earn too little to file a return. But the EITC can aid them to meet their budgetary needs.”

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According to data from the National League of Cities, over 990 local area residents in 2003 could have claimed a total of \$1 million in EITC funds – or \$1410 per person – if they had filed a return.

Ron Peruzzi, Senior Tax Specialist with the IRS office in Connecticut, congratulated TEAM on its success.

“Eighty nine returns for a first year is very good,” he said. “I attribute the results to the volunteers’ hard work and dedication. That’s what made the program.”

Along side the tax assistance it provides, TEAM offers an Individual Development Account Program, which helps low-income people save toward major assets like a home or education.

TEAM’s VITA program is sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service and the federal Community Services Block Grant. Funding from Naugatuck Savings Bank supported the VITA center’s manager this year.

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.

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