

## MEDIA RELEASE

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## Neighborhood Tax Centers Offer Free Tax Preparation

*Fourth consecutive year Houston area families can get all the money they earned*

**HOUSTON** (JAN 13, 2012) — Starting Monday January 16, people in Houston and its surrounding areas can file their taxes for free with Neighborhood Tax Centers. The service is available to families with earnings up to \$50,000, singles earning \$30,000, or to those who've experienced a change in circumstances, such as a single-parent who was earning \$65,000 in 2011 but is now unemployed.

Eight Neighborhood Tax Centers will open throughout the week of January 16, starting with the year-round tax center in Southwest Houston which opens Monday at 9 a.m. A total 16 Neighborhood Tax Centers will open throughout the Houston area by the end of the month. A complete list of locations and business hours is available by calling the 2-1-1 Texas/United Way HELPLINE by dialing 2-1-1 and at FreeTaxCenters.org.

Important documents you need to bring include:

- Photo ID
- Social Security cards or ITIN letters for everyone on the tax return
- Copy of last year's tax return (if you have it)
- Check with bank account and routing number for direct deposit of your refund
- For a complete list of what to bring, visit FreeTaxCenters.org

Fifty percent of Houstonians earn \$50,000 or less, so many people can benefit from free tax preparation with Houston's leading free tax preparer. Thanks to the 72,000 tax returns that Neighborhood Tax Centers has prepared for free since 2009, a whopping \$91 million have been returned to the local community. This year, Neighborhood Tax Centers expect to file 31,000 tax returns which would return \$40 million to the community.

Tax preparation services will be available in Spanish at most locations. Tax preparers, who speak other languages such as Chinese and Vietnamese, will be available at select locations. Call 2-1-1 for details.

This free tax preparation service is a program of Neighborhood Centers Inc. and is made possible through a catalyst investment from Houston Endowment and United Way of Greater Houston. Since 2009, United Way of Greater Houston has been the lead investor in Neighborhood Tax Centers as part of United Way THRIVE aimed at helping families gain financial stability.

### **About Neighborhood Centers Inc.**

Neighborhood Centers Inc. brings resources, education and connection to more than 250,000 people throughout the Texas Gulf Coast each year. For 104 years, Neighborhood Centers has offered comprehensive community-based programs for people at every stage of life – from infants to seniors. We work with residents of emerging communities in 60 service locations to help them discover the strengths and skills necessary to become productive, prosperous and self-sufficient. Founded in 1907, Neighborhood Centers combines passion, commitment and an entrepreneurial philosophy to make the human dream a reality for all who are willing to work for it. Neighborhood Centers is a United Way agency. For more information, visit [www.neighborhood-centers.org](http://www.neighborhood-centers.org).

### **About United Way of Greater Houston**

For nearly 90 years, United Way of Greater Houston has a leader and trusted partner in improving lives, tackling key community social issues, and making a lasting difference. United Way of Greater Houston touches one of every two lives in the Bay Area, Fort Bend, Harris, Montgomery and Waller counties. United Way focuses on strengthening our community by developing children and youth to their full potential, creating strong families and safe neighborhoods, sustaining senior independence and rebuilding people's lives in times of crisis. United Way of Greater Houston is the best way to make the biggest difference in our community. For information, please visit [www.unitedwayhouston.org](http://www.unitedwayhouston.org).

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