



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

March 26, 2007

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SUPERVISORS SLATER-PRICE AND HORN URGE WORKING FAMILIES TO CLAIM THEIR EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

Senior Citizen Volunteers Provide Tax Assistance at Nearly 100 Sites Countywide

WHAT: Supervisors Pam Slater-Price and Bill Horn encourage **working families** to file their income taxes and **claim their Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**. Countywide campaign will end in mid April.

Hundreds of senior citizens and other volunteers are offering **tax preparation services** at nearly **100 sites until April 17**.

WHO: Supervisor Pam Slater-Price, Third District, County of San Diego
Supervisor Bill Horn, Fifth District, County of San Diego
Nick Macchione, Deputy Director, San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency-North Regions
Pam Trunell, North County Lifeline
Senior volunteers

WHEN: TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2007 AT 10:00 A.M.

WHERE: INTERFAITH COMMUNITY SERVICES
550 WEST WASHINGTON, ESCONDIDO, CA

WHY: Approximately \$20-\$25 million of Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) dollars are left unclaimed yearly in San Diego County alone. The figure jumps to more than \$1 billion statewide.

During the 2003 tax season, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors launched a pilot program that provided tax preparation assistance to low-income workers. That year, volunteers at five sites filed 832 federal returns, generating more than \$600,000 in EITC refunds. The EITC campaign proved successful and was expanded countywide.

In 2006, the AARP joined the campaign. As a result, the number of sites offering tax services nearly tripled to 58 locations and more than 12,000 returns were filed. Last year, nearly five million EITC dollars were claimed by San Diego County working families and individuals. Since the program began, more than \$10 million EITC dollars have been returned to the regional economy.

Established in 1975, the EITC is the federal government's largest cash assistance program designed to lift low-income families and individuals out of poverty by helping them keep more of their hard-earned wages.

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