

MEDIA ALERT  
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## **NEW VIDEO RAISES AWARENESS OF FREE INCOME TAX SERVICES FOR ELIGIBLE LUCAS COUNTY RESIDENTS**

Toledo, OH – Friday, January 29, 2010, is National Earned Income Tax Credit Awareness Day. The Lucas County Treasurer's Office along with the Lucas County Commissioner's Office and the United Way of Greater Toledo and non-profit public broadcaster, WGTE Public Media, have produced a video that explains Lucas County's initiative to connect eligible families with Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) trained volunteer help at convenient sites in our area. The video will be shown on monitors at Lucas County service agencies throughout the area, and available for viewing at [www.knowledgestream.org](http://www.knowledgestream.org), WGTE's free online archive of civic and educational videotaped presentations.

Throughout the United States, millions of people are working hard to make life better for themselves and their families. With the jobs they hold, many of them simply cannot earn enough to achieve their goals. However, eligible families can get as much as \$5,657 from the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Claiming the credits can put an eligible worker on the path to securing better housing, pursuing higher education, obtaining dependable transportation, covering out-of-pocket health care costs, or paying for quality childcare.

Heads of household who worked in 2009, had children living with them, and earned less than \$48,279 or did not have children living with them and earned less than \$18,440, qualify for this helpful and free tax preparation assistance.

Many Lucas County Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites are available in the area. Trained volunteers at these sites can help families prepare their taxes for free. To schedule an appointment, or to volunteer to help others file their taxes, call United Way by simply dialing 2-1-1 or 1-800-650-4357.

2010 sites include:

- Adelante (520 Broadway)
- East Toledo Family Center (1020 Varland Ave)
- Margaret Hunt Senior Center (2121 Garden Lake Pkwy)
- Parish Federal Credit Union (5138 N. Summit St.)
- Providence Center (1949 Broadway)
- Toledo Urban Federal Credit Union (1339 Dorr St)
- United Way Of Greater Toledo (424 Jackson St.)

Families seeking to take advantage of the program should bring:

- W-2s and 1099s from their employers
- Social Security Cards (for themselves, spouse, children and other dependents)
- Copy of last years tax return (very helpful)

- List of other income / expenses (if itemizing deductions)
- Childcare information (providers ID number & receipts for amount paid)
- Blank check or savings account information for direct deposit
- 1099s for interest, dividends, unemployment, government and miscellaneous income
- 1098s for student loan interest, mortgage interest, or property tax

**Editor's Note:** Media outlets can view the video online by visiting [www.knowledgestream.org](http://www.knowledgestream.org), or by contacting WGTE's Tijuana Linzy at 419-380-4652 or email [tijuana\\_linzy@wgte.org](mailto:tijuana_linzy@wgte.org) for a DVD copy of this instructional video that features Lucas County Treasurer Wade Kapszukiewicz, Lucas County Commissioner Ben Konop, and United Way Community Impact Specialist Amelia Gibbon.

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WGTE Public Media (The Public Broadcasting Foundation of Northwest Ohio) is a non-profit organization providing quality broadcasting and educational resources to Northwest and West Central Ohio and Southeast Michigan for 55 years. WGTE Public Media operates WGTE TV, Toledo; WGTE FM 91.3, Toledo; WGLE FM 90.7, Lima; WGBE FM 90.9, Bryan; WGDE FM 91.9, Defiance; [wgte.org](http://wgte.org); The Educational Resource Center; and The Early Learning and Outreach Center.