



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS ADVISORY

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\$5.9 MILLION RETURNED TO REGION BY COUNTY CAMPAIGN ***Tax Assistance Provided to Low-Income Families in County***

WHAT: Supervisor Bill Horn will join community service providers to kick off the 2010 countywide campaign to help more San Diego County, low-income families and individuals take advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

During the campaign, hundreds of volunteers will offer no-cost, tax preparation services at dozens of sites throughout the county. Residents should call 211 for information.

WHO: **Vice-Chairman Bill Horn**, County of San Diego Board of Supervisors
Nick Macchione, Director, County Health and Human Services Agency
Doug Sawyer, President and CEO, United Way of San Diego County
Ron Wicks, Internal Revenue Service

WHEN: **FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2010 AT 11:30 A.M.**
WHERE: **COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER—EAST PLAZA**
1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY

WHY: The latest IRS estimates indicate that, nationally, between 20 and 25 percent of eligible individuals do not claim the credit.

During the 2003 tax season, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors launched a pilot program, spearheaded by Chairwoman Slater-Price and Supervisor Greg Cox, which provided tax preparation assistance to low-income workers. The program was expanded countywide the following year.

In 2009, nearly 36,000 federal and state tax returns were filed, bringing about \$18 million in refunds to working families and the local economy. Nearly \$5.9 million were EITC dollars.

Since the campaign began, more than \$29 million EITC dollars have been returned to local families.

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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