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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Each year, millions of Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) dollars are not claimed by Hillsborough County's working families because people either do not know how to claim the credit or do not file a tax return. For the 2007 tax year, households earning \$39,783 or less may qualify for an EITC refund up to \$4,716 cash back (based on earnings, number of qualifying children and filing status) when their tax return is filed. Even working families who do not owe taxes may qualify for some EITC.

To ensure working families eligible for EITC receive their full, earned share, the Prosperity Campaign supports 26 free tax preparation locations in Hillsborough County to help low and moderate income residents complete and e-file their 2007 Tax Return. On-site support features IRS-certified and qualified volunteers and staff who make certain those eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and other credits such as Child Tax Credit, Disability Credit, and Elderly Credit receive their full, earned share.

This local campaign is operated by key stakeholders such as, Hillsborough County, the City of Tampa, Tampa Chamber of Commerce, the Internal Revenue Service, AARP, United Way of Tampa Bay, the Children's Board of Hillsborough County, Bright Beginnings, and many, many other businesses and community-based organizations. The Prosperity Campaign's primary goals are to conduct a local awareness campaign, facilitate and support FREE income tax preparation sites and substantially increase the number of working families claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit-EITC. The Prosperity Campaign will also provide access to financial education and other asset building programs for low- and moderate-income working people and families.

The Prosperity Campaign will be offering free tax preparation at sites around the community, beginning in mid-January and continuing through April 15, 2008 but are looking to recruit volunteers NOW.

There is a critical need for volunteer site greeters and screeners, The Benefit Bank counselors, and tax preparers. After training 8-40 hours, volunteers will work from mid-January to April 15, 2008. Volunteer tax preparers and The Benefit Bank counselors do not have to be accountants—they only need good computer skills and the ability to listen to and work with the public. Greeters and screeners do not require computer skills. All volunteers should be friendly, dependable, and flexible.

Please feel free to contact me for more information about the Prosperity Campaign and how you can help join in the effort to recruit volunteers.