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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Free tax preparation help available

You don't have to spend money to get your own money back.

Free tax preparation help is available to low-income families in Warren County. **Warren County Community Services, Inc. (WCCS)** wants to help families and individuals meet their filing obligations, find credits they may not know about and protect them from unnecessary costs.

"Many people struggle with preparing taxes," said Sue Miller, WCCS' Family Services Director. "Low-income individuals and families really cannot afford expensive advice to get the refund they should. We want everyone to know there is an alternative."

In particular, Miller believes WCCS can help many families and individuals who may not realize they qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The EITC is a federal income tax credit for low to moderate income working families and individuals. Congress originally approved it in 1975.

Eligibility factors include how much you earned in 2009 and how many children you have. For tax years 2009 and 2010, the program was expanded as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The average credit is more than \$2,000 but the maximum credit for 2009 and 2010 is \$5,657.

"A lot of families are at a different place financially than they were a year ago," Miller said. "If they earned less in 2009 than they did in 2008, they might qualify for the credit but not be thinking about it."

Even single adults and couples without children can qualify for the credit, although families with children receive larger credits.

Earned Income and adjusted gross income (AGI) must each be less than:

- \$43,279 (\$48,279 married filing jointly) with three or more qualifying children
- \$40,295 (\$45,295 married filing jointly) with two qualifying children
- \$35,463 (\$40,463 married filing jointly) with one qualifying child
- \$13,440 (\$18,440 married filing jointly) with no qualifying children

-more-

Tax Year 2009 maximum credit:

- \$5,657 with three or more qualifying children
- \$5,028 with two qualifying children
- \$3,043 with one qualifying child
- \$457 with no qualifying children

“Millions of EITC dollars go unclaimed every year,” Miller said. “We don’t want that to happen in our community.”

Free tax preparation is available to residents who made \$57,000 or less in 2009.

Tax assistance is available from now until April 15 at offices at The 741 Center in Lebanon, and in Morrow, Mason, and South Lebanon.

An appointment is needed. Please call **513-267-9570**.

The following items should be brought to the appointment:

- Valid picture I.D.
- Social Security card(s) for you, your spouse, children and others shown on the tax return
- Copy of your 2008 tax return if possible
- Copies of all W-2’s, 1098’s, 1099’s and source and amounts of any other income received by you & spouse
- Child/Dependent Care providers tax ID Number
- Student loan interest/college tuition expenses if applicable
- For direct deposit into a savings or checking, bring proof of account number and routing number (copy of voided check)
- Medical bills paid by you
- Copy of property tax bill that was paid
- If claiming First Time Home Buyer Credit—proof of ownership

Tax Preparation Sites for 2009 tax-year:

Lebanon

The 741 Center – 570 N. State Rt. 741

Mason

Mason United Methodist Church– 6315 Mason-Montgomery Rd.

Morrow

Salem Township Public Library – 535 W. Pike Street

South Lebanon

WCCS, Inc. – South Office, 10 N. High Street.

For more information about WCCS, please visit us online at **www.wccsi.org**.

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