



Press Release
For Immediate Release

February 28, 2011

Contact: Mary Lynn Perry
Volunteer Coordinator
Phone: (916) 808-8317
mperry@cityofsacramento.org
or Jack Corcoran, Team Leader
AmeriCorps NCCC, Green 4
Phone: (916) 717- 9984
Green4jack@gmail.com

**Karaoke with Seniors, Homework Help for Kids and
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program
City of Sacramento and AmeriCorps NCCC Green 4 Team**

SACRAMENTO – Members of AmeriCorps NCCC Green 4 team showcase their creativity and versatility in lots of ways with their current project at the City of Sacramento. They are singing karaoke with seniors, helping with homework in after-school programs and doing taxes for low income residents.

The AmeriCorps NCCC team could not be happier for the opportunity to leave their mark in the community they are serving. “It’s wonderful to work directly with the people we’re serving” says Corps Member Mae Frilles.

The team is working with the City of Sacramento to assist low to moderate-income residents (income \$49,000 or less) to prepare their tax returns, including those needing to file to take advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit. Focus of the project is in the Meadowview and Oak Park areas.

The AmeriCorps NCCC team members are also leading Wii contests for seniors, organizing karaoke and making special presentations at the Ethel Hart Senior center where they are assisting with tax preparation. The next presentations will be “Healthy Snacks” on March 1st, from 1-2 pm in the Redwood West Room and “Take Care of Your Pet” on March 11th at 12:30 pm. The Ethel Hart Senior Center is located at 915 27th Street, Sacramento and serves adults age 50 or greater.

In addition, the team members are also assisting with the City's START after-school program at 7 school sites in Oak Park and Meadowview. At the sites the team members help with homework, engage the youth in games and activities and help their parents prepare their taxes.

- The team provides free tax preparation Monday, and Wednesday through Friday at the Pannell/Meadowview Community Center, 2450 Meadowview Road, from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm each day. This is a walk-in site and no appointments are needed.
- Free tax preparation assistance is provided Monday, and Wednesday through Friday at the Ethel Hart Senior Center, 915 27th Street from 3:30-5:30 in the afternoons. An appointment is required. Call 916-808-5462 to schedule.
- The team is also helping to prepare taxes at the Oak Park Community Center on Saturdays from 10 am to 2 pm. To make an appointment, call: 916-808-6151.

The AmeriCorps members have received over 24 hours of training from the IRS and the State of California Franchise Tax Board in basic tax law in order to prepare them to assist residents. One key focus of the training has been to assist the Corps members in identifying how participants may qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Child Tax Credit and Child and Dependent Care. Citizens will also save the cost of having someone prepare their return.

Taxpayers with incomes under \$57,000 may also utilize the computer labs at the Pannell/Meadowview Community Center and the South Natomas Community Center to complete their own taxes, electronically file their federal and state returns, and arrange to have their refunds directly deposited into their checking and/or savings accounts. The VITA volunteers will provide technical assistance and coaching to taxpayers filing their own returns. In addition, tax payers may also use the public portal provided through One Economy/The Beehive and the City of Sacramento to complete their own returns using their home computer. That portal is: <http://www.thebeehive.org/cityofsacramento>. Income is restricted to \$57,000 to file for free using the public portal.

For additional VITA sites hosted by the City of Sacramento, please visit: <http://www.cityofsacramento.org/volunteers/VITA.html>. For information about other VITA free tax preparation sites in the Sacramento area, please call InfoLine Sacramento: (916) 498-1000 or 211.

For more information about this project, contact: Mary Lynn Perry, Volunteer Coordinator, City of Sacramento. (916) 808-8317 or mperry@cityofsacramento.org. For additional volunteer opportunities, visit our web site: www.cityofsacramento.org/volunteers.

AmeriCorps NCCC is part of AmeriCorps, a network of national service programs created to improve the environment, enhance education, increase public safety, and assist with disaster relief and other unmet human needs. The Pacific Region campus, located in

Sacramento, CA. serves Alaska, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, and the territories of Guam and American Samoa. The Pacific Region campus is one of five campuses in the United States; the others are located in Perry Point, Md.; Vinton, Iowa, Vicksburg, Miss. and Denver, Colo.

AmeriCorps members must complete at least 1,700 hours of service during the 10-month program. In exchange for their service, they receive \$5,550 to help pay for college or to pay school loans. AmeriCorps is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service. For information about applying to an AmeriCorps program, call 1-800-942-2677 (1-800-94-ACORP) or visit the website at www.americorps.gov/nccc.

###