For Immediate Release
March 29, 2011

Special Tax Assistance Being Offered In Independence as Tax Day Nears

(Independence, MO)---Don't look now, but the April 18th deadline to file your 2010 state and federal income taxes is only a few weeks away. Are you still trying to "get it together" and need some help getting started? The KC CASH Coalition and United Way want to help.

During the next two weeks, the MyFreeTaxes.com mobile van is in town to help people file their taxes. KC CASH and United Way are coordinating temporary tax assistance sites open to the public at two Independence area locations where taxpayers earning less than $57,000 can use laptop computers and tax preparation software to do their taxes for free. They will be assisted by a "tax coach" who will be there to answer questions and guide taxpayers if they encounter any tax related problems or issues. The special tax assistance sites are sponsored by KC CASH, Wal-Mart Foundation, One Economy, Real Economic Impact Tour and United Way. The locations and hours of operation for the special, temporary tax sites are:

- Friday, April 1st & Saturday, April 2nd ---- 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
  Blue River Community College, 20301 E. 78 Highway, Public Safety Building, Room 103,
  Independence, MO 64057

- Sunday, April 3rd through Saturday, April 9th ---- 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
  Independence Center, 2035 Independence Center, Dr., upper level near Hallmark Cards,
  Independence, MO 64057

Taxpayers seeking assistance in preparing and filing their taxes need to bring with them:

- Photo identification
- Social Security or Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITIN) for each family member
- Birth dates for all people listed on the tax return
- W2s, 1099s and other income tax forms from all employers
- Your childcare provider's name, address, tax ID number and amounts paid during 2010.
- Bank routing and account numbers for direct deposit of refunds
- A copy of last year's tax return (if available)

Taxpayers who aren't able to make it to the special, temporary tax sites can file their taxes online at MyFreeTaxes.com/kc. It is free for anyone earning less than $57,000 per year. People who don't feel confident enough to prepare their taxes on their own with a "tax coach at one of the special tax assistance sites are encouraged to visit one of the 16 KC CASH/ United Way tax assistance sites around the metro area. There, IRS certified tax preparation volunteers will prepare and electronically file taxpayers' state and federal tax returns for those whose household income is less than $49,000 for free. The 16 regular tax assistance sites are open various days and times between now and April 18th. The easiest way to find a site near you, with hours that fit your schedule, is by visiting www.unitedwaygkc.org/tax or by calling United Way by dialing 2-1-1 or (816) 474-5112.

Hard working families who qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) are eligible to receive thousands of extra dollars in tax refunds this year. The IRS-certified "tax coaches" and tax preparation volunteers are specially trained in helping families and individuals who qualify for the tax credit, claim it. EITC can mean up $5,666 back for a low-income family with three or more qualifying children, up to $5,036 for a family with two qualifying children and up to $3,050 for a family with one child.

For further information, contact: Ron Howard
United Way
(816) 559-4644