



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Congressman Ellison and Mayor Coleman Join Claim It! Kickoff

Greater Twin Cities United Way and partners kickoff free tax preparation season

Twin Cities (January 18, 2008) – U.S. Congressman Keith Ellison and St. Paul Mayor Christopher B. Coleman are supporting free tax preparation at the 2008 ***Claim It! Kick-off*** event on **Saturday, February 2** at the **Minneapolis Urban League** and the **Rondo Community Outreach Library** in St. Paul. Each will be present to lend a voice to the opportunity of free tax preparation and tax credits available. Historically, individuals begin lining up around the block early in the morning at both locations to take advantage of the free tax preparation services.

The ***Claim It! Kick-off*** event marks the beginning of tax season and highlights the 150 locations where people can receive free tax preparation and learn about tax credits such as Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Working Family Credit (WFC). Last year the average tax credit for qualifying families was \$1600. Tax credits are one of the best ways for people to keep money in their pockets. The public is encouraged to call ***United Way 2-1-1*** or **1-800-543-7709** for the nearest tax clinic location and to learn more about tax credits. Free tax preparation is available to an individual whose income is below \$30,000, families whose combined income is below \$40,000, along with disabled individuals and senior citizens.

“This community-wide partnership is crucial for helping people retain a portion of their income through the free tax preparation and tax credits. This extra money in people’s pockets can help them pay for groceries, rent or a car. It could mean the difference between choosing to feed your children or living on the street. United Way is proud to be

able to assist our community with starting on the road to financial stability,” states Lauren Segal, President and CEO of Greater Twin Cities United Way.

About Greater Twin Cities United Way

Greater Twin Cities United Way improves lives and builds a stronger community by bringing together hearts, minds and resources from across the region and by developing effective partnerships with businesses, government and nonprofit organizations. Greater Twin Cities United Way is an independent organization serving Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Scott and western Washington counties. For more information visit www.unitedwaytwincities.org or call (612) 340-7400.

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