

Media Advisory

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Supervisor John Vasquez and United Way Honor Solano Tax Volunteers Tax Volunteers Helped Low-Wage Solano Families Claim \$890,000 in Refunds

FAIRFIELD, Calif., June 14, 2007 – Supervisor John Vasquez and United Way of the Bay Area (UWBA) today celebrated the achievements of Solano County volunteers at a reception in the Solano County Board of Supervisors Foyer.

Forty-three Solano County volunteers were honored for their contributions to Earn It! Keep It! Save It! (EKS), the Bay Area's largest free tax assistance program. In Solano County this year, EKS coordinated 11 free volunteer income tax assistance sites, which helped 736 of Solano's neediest families claim \$890,420 in tax refunds and connect with asset-building resources.

"Thank you to all the volunteers who made this year's tax assistance program such a big success! Your efforts are helping hundreds of Solano's low-wage families get a better foothold on the economic ladder, and brought many thousands of dollars back to our local economy," said Supervisor John Vasquez.

This year – Earn It! Keep It! Save It!'s third year in Solano County – was marked by several significant achievements:

- 53% increase in tax dollars returned! Volunteers help Solano families claim \$890,420 in total tax returns, compared to \$583,842 last year, an increase of more than \$300,000.
- The total amount of refunds includes \$267,562 million in federal Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC), a 49% increase over last year.
- Solano volunteers processed 736 tax returns, compared to the 550 returns processed during the 2005 tax season, an increase of 34%.

Note: Earn It! Keep It! Save It!'s 2007 results for the entire Bay Area will be released in July.

About Earn It! Keep It! Save It! Bay Area

Led by United Way of the Bay Area, Earn It! Keep It! Save It! Bay Area coordinates more than 105 tax preparation sites and asset development programs in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo and Solano Counties, with the participation of over 200 public and private-sector partners. Funding partners include Annie E. Casey Foundation, Bank of America, Chevron, City of Oakland, Community Foundation of the Napa Valley, Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, Firedoll Foundation, First 5 Contra Costa, First 5 Napa County, HSBC, KPMG LLP, Levi Strauss Foundation, Napa County Housing Authority, Napa Valley Vintners, Port of Oakland, The San Francisco Foundation, State Street of California, Union Bank of California, United Way of the Bay Area, Walter & Elise Haas Fund, Wells Fargo & Company, West America Bank, Y&H Soda Foundation and others. For more information please visit www.EarnItKeepItSaveIt.org or call 415-808-4300.