

United Way offers free tax assistance

Every year, families throughout Colorado fail to claim millions of dollars in federal tax credits for which they are eligible. The 2-1-1 Information and Referral program at United Way of Weld County and Aims Community College have partnered again with the Piton Foundation to help people in Weld County be aware of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a credit for working families that earned less than \$49,000 in 2011. 2-1-1 Director, Wilmerd Velez, stated, “The Earned Income Tax Credit can make a real difference for many Weld County families. Some of these folks are confronting perhaps the most severe challenges they have ever experienced and many of them do not know they are eligible, or do not know how to apply.”

Some families may get as much as \$5,000 or more when they file their tax return. Plus, there are more tax credits available: the Child Tax Credit and the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit. There also are credits to help pay for college.

More often than not many families are not able to pay for tax preparation because the income they have is greatly needed to pay for basic needs. United Way wants qualifying families to be able to keep more of their refunds by going to free tax sites. In Greeley, the Tax Help Colorado site is located at Aims Community College, 5401 West 20th Street. IRS certified volunteers will prepare and e-file taxes for free beginning February 3rd in Room 614 of the Westview Building. Hours are Fridays, 1:00 – 7:00 PM., February 3-April 13 (closed March 9 and 16), and Mondays 4:00-7:00 PM. February 6-February 27

For more information on these tax credits and free tax preparation, simply dial 2-1-1. (Alternative phone number is 800-559-5590)