

**Tax Counseling Project
Center for Law & Human Services
29 East Madison Street, Suite 910
Chicago, IL 60602
312/252-0280
www.centerforlaw.org**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 6, 2002

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**2002 Tax Filing Year Brings Over \$19 Million in Refunds to Illinois
Chicago Yields Almost Twelve Million Dollars
Suburbs Top Three Million Dollars – Downstate Sites Yield \$4.7 Million**

(Chicago, IL...) The Tax Counseling Project, a program of the Center for Law & Human Services, today announced the final results of the 2002 tax filing season campaign. Overall in Illinois, 14,723 income tax returns were completed at 25 community locations throughout the state. These returns yielded \$19,527,034 in federal and state refunds to families in Illinois. (see attached data sheet for Illinois) There was no cost to the tax filers for these services, which were provided by a group of trained and dedicated volunteers.

During he recently completed tax season, 8,321 federal returns were done by volunteers at twelve sites throughout Chicago. The 8,321 returns yielded \$11,198,774 in federal tax refunds. In addition, state tax refunds of \$593,962 were obtained for clients who filed a state income tax return. Refunds totaled \$11,793,366 an increase of 23 percent over the prior year.

The average value of federal refunds in Chicago was \$1,272. Seventy-nine percent of the 8,805 federal returns filed included the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a valuable tax credit for low and moderate-income families. For those claiming the EITC the average refund was \$1,335.

The state EITC, in the second year of operation, yielded on average \$66 for each of the 5,550 people filing for that tax benefit in Chicago. The total value of the state EITC refunds in Chicago was \$208,815.

The Chicago site's operations were funded in part by grants from the City of Chicago and the Illinois Department of Human Services. Mayor Richard M. Daley played a crucial role in this success by supporting the Tax Counseling Project's work.

"The Tax Counseling Project has brought almost \$12 million dollars in tax money back to the Chicago community. This not only directly serves the families but the community as a whole," said David Marzahl, Executive Director of the Center for Law & Human Services.

The Tax Counseling Project has been doing tax returns for low-income workers in Illinois since the 1995 tax year. The project operates 25 sites in Chicago, the suburbs and downstate areas. Since the 1995 tax season, the project has brought \$66.6 million in refunds through filing 53,452 tax returns.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 28, 2002

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2002 Tax Filing Year Brings Over \$19 Million in Refunds to Illinois
Waukegan Yields Almost Million Dollars

(Chicago, IL...) The Tax Counseling Project, a program of the Center for Law & Human Services, today announced the final results of the 2002 tax filing season campaign. Overall in Illinois, 14,723 income tax returns were completed at 25 community locations throughout the state. These returns yielded \$19,527,034 in federal and state refunds to families in Illinois. There was no cost to the tax filers for these services which were provided by a group of trained and dedicated volunteers.

During the recently completed tax season, 712 federal returns were done by volunteers at the Waukegan Public Library. The 712 returns yielded \$933,956 in federal tax refunds. In addition, state tax refunds of \$48,515 were obtained for clients who filed a state income tax return. Refunds totaled \$978,409, an increase of 22 percent over the prior year.

The average value of federal refunds in Waukegan was \$1,644. Fifty percent of the 531 federal returns filed included the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a valuable tax credit for low and moderate-income families. For those claiming the EITC the average refund was \$1,542

The state EITC, in the second year of operation, yielded on average \$24 for each of the 617 people filing for that tax benefit. The total value of the state EITC refunds in Waukegan was \$14,985.

The Waukegan site's operations were funded in part by a grants from the Illinois Department of Human Services.

"The Tax Counseling Project has brought almost a million dollars in tax money back to the Waukegan community. This not only directly serves the families but the community as a whole," said David Marzahl, Executive Director of the Center for Law & Human Services.

The Tax Counseling Project has been doing tax returns for low-income workers in Illinois since the 1995 tax year. The project operates 25 sites in Chicago, the suburbs and downstate areas. Since the 1995 tax season, the project has brought \$66.6 million in refunds through filing 53,452 tax returns.

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2002 Tax Filing Year Brings Over \$19 Million in Funds to Illinois
Elgin Yields Half Million Dollars in First Year of Operation

(Chicago, IL...) The Tax Counseling Project, a program of the Center for Law & Human Services, today announced the final results of the 2002 tax filing season campaign. Overall in Illinois, 14,723 income tax returns were completed at 25 community locations throughout the state. These returns yielded \$19,527,034 in federal and state refunds to families in Illinois. There was no cost to the tax filers for these services which were provided by a group of trained and dedicated volunteers.

During the recently completed tax season, 464 federal returns were done by volunteers at the Gail Borden Library in Elgin. The 464 returns yielded \$649,158 in federal tax refunds.

In addition, state tax refunds of \$35,478 were obtained for clients who filed a state income tax return.

The total value of federal and state refunds for the site at the Gail Borden Public Library was \$684,636.

The average of federal refunds from Elgin was \$1,651. Slightly over fifty percent of the 390 federal returns filed included the Earned Income Credit (EITC), a valuable tax credit for low and moderate-income families.. For those filing an EITC the average refund was \$1,419.

The state EITC, in the second year of operation, yielded on average \$66 for each of the 156 people filing for that tax benefit. The total value of the state EITC refunds in Elgin was \$10,281.

The Elgin site's operations were funded in part by grants and assistance from the Illinois Department of Human Services, the Gail Borden Library and the Grand Victoria Foundation.

"The Tax Counseling Project has brought over a half million dollars in tax money back to the Elgin community. This not only directly serves the families but the community as a whole," said David Marzahl, Executive Director of the Center for Law & Human Services.

The Tax Counseling Project has been doing tax returns for low-income workers in Illinois since the 1995 tax year. The project operates 25 sites in Chicago, the suburbs and downstate areas. Since the 1995 tax season, the project has brought \$66.6 million in refunds through filing 53,452 tax returns.

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**2002 Tax Filing Year Brings Over \$19 Million in Refunds to Illinois
Champaign Yields \$773,482**

(Chicago, IL...) The Tax Counseling Project, a program of the Center for Law & Human Services, today announced the final results of the 2002 tax filing season campaign. Overall in Illinois, 14,723 income tax returns were completed at 25 community locations throughout the state. These returns yielded \$19,527,034 in federal and state refunds to families in Illinois. There was no cost to the tax filers for these services which were provided by a group of trained and dedicated volunteers.

During the recently completed tax season, 646 federal returns were done by volunteers at the Urban League of Champaign County. The 646 returns yielded \$735,142 in federal tax refunds. In addition, state tax refunds of \$38,340 were obtained for clients who filed a state income tax return. Total refunds totaled \$773,482, an increase of 34 percent over the prior year.

The average value of federal refunds in Champaign was \$1,349. Over fifty percent of the 646 federal refunds filed included the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a valuable tax credit for low and moderate-income families. For those claiming the EITC the average refund was \$1,345.

The state EITC, in the second year of operation, yielded on average \$67 for each of the 242 people filing for that tax benefit. The total value of the state EITC refunds in Champaign was \$16,230.

The Champaign site's operations were funded in part by a grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services.

"The Tax Counseling Project has brought three quarters of a million dollars in tax money back to the Champaign community. This not only directly serves the families but the community as a whole," said David Marzahl, Executive Director of the Center for Law & Human Services.

The Tax Counseling Project has been doing tax returns for low-income workers in Illinois since the 1995 tax year. The project operates 25 sites in Chicago, the suburbs and downstate areas. Since the 1995 tax season, the project has brought \$66.6 million in refunds through filing 53,452 tax returns.

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**2002 Tax Filing Year Brings Over \$19 Million in Refunds to Illinois
Decatur Yields \$610,332**

(Chicago, IL...) The Tax Counseling Project, a program of the Center for Law & Human Services, today announced the final results of the 2002 tax filing season campaign. Overall in Illinois, 14,723 federal income tax returns were completed at 25 community locations throughout the state. These returns yielded \$19,527,034 in federal and state refunds to families in Illinois. There was no cost to the tax filers for these services which were provided by a group of trained and dedicated volunteers.

During the recently completed tax season, 443 federal returns were done by volunteers at Dove, Inc in Decatur. The 443 returns yielded \$575,528 in federal tax refunds. In addition, state tax refunds of \$34,804 were obtained for clients who filed a state income tax return. Refunds totaled \$610,332, an increase of 41 percent over the prior year.

The average value of federal refunds in Decatur was \$1,466. Forty-five percent of the 443 federal returns filed included the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a valuable tax credit for low and moderate-income families. For those claiming the EITC the average refund was \$1,414

The state EITC, in the second year of operation, yielded on average \$71 for each of the 171 people filing for that tax benefit. The total value of the state EITC refunds in Decatur was \$12,150.

The Decatur site's operations were funded in part by a grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services.

"The Tax Counseling Project has brought almost a million dollars in tax money back to the Decatur community. This not only directly serves the families but the community as a whole," said David Marzahl, Executive Director of the Center for Law & Human Services.

The Tax Counseling Project has been doing tax returns for low-income workers in Illinois since the 1995 tax year. The project operates 25 sites in Chicago, the suburbs and downstate areas. Since the 1995 tax season, the project has brought \$66.6 million in refunds through filing 53,452 tax returns.

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**2002 Tax Filing Year Brings Over \$19 Million in Refunds to Illinois
East St. Louis Yields \$610,298**

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During the recently completed tax season, 563 federal returns were done by volunteers at the Lessie Bates Neighborhood House in East St. Louis. The 563 returns yielded \$589,918 in federal tax refunds. In addition, state tax refunds of \$20,379 were obtained for clients who filed a state income tax return. Refunds totaled \$610,298, an increase of 38 percent over the prior year.

The average value of federal refunds in East St. Louis was \$681. Half of the 563 federal returns filed included the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a valuable tax credit for low and moderate-income families. For those claiming the EITC the average refund was \$1,394

The state EITC, in the second year of operation, yielded on average \$71 for each of the 174 people filing for that tax benefit. The total value of the state EITC refunds in East St. Louis was \$12,364.

The East St. Louis site's operations were funded in part by a grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services.

"The Tax Counseling Project has brought almost a million dollars in tax money back to the East St. Louis community. This not only directly serves the families but the community as a whole," said David Marzahl, Executive Director of the Center for Law & Human Services.

The Tax Counseling Project has been doing tax returns for low-income workers in Illinois since the 1995 tax year. The project operates 25 sites in Chicago, the suburbs and downstate areas. Since the 1995 tax season, the project has brought \$66.6 million in refunds through filing 53,452 tax returns.

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**2002 Tax Filing Year Brings Over \$19 Million in Refunds to Illinois
Granite City Yields Over a Half Million in Refunds**

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During the recently completed tax season, 348 federal returns were done by volunteers at the Southwest Illinois College site in Granite City. The 348 returns yielded \$500,409 in federal tax refunds. In addition, state tax refunds of \$22,232 were obtained for clients who filed a state income tax return. Refunds totaled \$522,641, an increase of 45 percent over the prior year.

The average value of federal refunds in Granite City was \$1,611. Forty-seven percent of the 348 federal returns filed included the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a valuable tax credit for low and moderate-income families. For those claiming the EITC the average refund was \$1,518.

The state EITC, in the second year of operation, yielded on average \$71 for each of the 130 people filing for that tax benefit. The total value of the state EITC refunds in Granite City was \$9,250.

The Granite City site's operations were funded in part by a grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services.

"The Tax Counseling Project has brought almost a million dollars in tax money back to the Granite City community. This not only directly serves the families but the community as a whole," said David Marzahl, Executive Director of the Center for Law & Human Services.

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**2002 Tax Filing Year Brings Over \$19 Million in Refunds to Illinois
Harvey Yields \$804,909 in Refunds**

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During the recently completed tax season, 640 federal returns were done by volunteers at the Harvey Public Library. The 640 returns yielded \$765,823 in federal tax refunds. In addition, state tax refunds of \$39,086 were obtained for clients who filed a state income tax return. Refunds totaled \$804,909, an increase of 38 percent over the prior year.

The average value of federal refunds in Harvey was \$1,426. Fifty percent of the 640 federal returns filed included the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a valuable tax credit for low and moderate-income families. For those claiming the EITC the average refund was \$1,267.

The state EITC, in the second year of operation, yielded on average \$62 for each of the 197 people filing for that tax benefit. The total value of the state EITC refunds in Harvey was \$12,211.

The Harvey site's operations were funded in part by a grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services.

"The Tax Counseling Project has brought almost a million dollars in tax money back to the Harvey community. This not only directly serves the families but the community as a whole," said David Marzahl, Executive Director of the Center for Law & Human Services.

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**2002 Tax Filing Year Brings Over \$19 Million in Refunds to Illinois
Joliet Yields \$558,339 in Refunds**

(Chicago, IL...) The Tax Counseling Project, a program of the Center for Law & Human Services, today announced the final results of the 2002 tax filing season campaign. Overall in Illinois, 14,723 federal income tax returns were completed at 25 community locations throughout the state. These returns yielded \$19,527,034 in federal and state refunds to families in Illinois. There was no cost to the tax filers for these services which were provided by a group of trained and dedicated volunteers.

During the recently completed tax season, 370 federal returns were done by volunteers at the Joliet Junior College. The 370 returns yielded \$530,173 in federal tax refunds. In addition, state tax refunds of \$28,166 were obtained for clients who filed a state income tax return. Refunds totaled \$558,339, an increase of 45 percent over the prior year.

The average value of federal refunds in Joliet was \$1,525. Sixty-five percent of the 370 federal returns filed included the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a valuable tax credit for low and moderate-income families. For those claiming the EITC the average refund was \$1,375

The state EITC, in the second year of operation, yielded on average \$70 for each of the 122 people filing for that tax benefit. The total value of the state EITC refunds in Joliet was \$8,562.

The Joliet site's operations were funded in part by a grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services.

"The Tax Counseling Project has brought almost a million dollars in tax money back to the Joliet community. This not only directly serves the families but the community as a whole," said David Marzahl, Executive Director of the Center for Law & Human Services.

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**2002 Tax Filing Year Brings Over \$19 Million in Refunds to Illinois
First Year in Marion Yields \$556,415 in Refunds**

(Chicago, IL...) The Tax Counseling Project, a program of the Center for Law & Human Services, today announced the final results of the 2002 tax filing season campaign. Overall in Illinois, 14,723 federal income tax returns were completed at 25 community locations throughout the state. These returns yielded \$19,527,034 in federal and state refunds to families in Illinois. There was no cost to the tax filers for these services which were provided by a group of trained and dedicated volunteers.

During the recently completed tax season, 471 federal returns were done by volunteers at the Man-Tra-Con Corp in Marion. The 471 returns yielded \$528,399 in federal tax refunds. In addition, state tax refunds of \$28,016 were obtained for clients who filed a state income tax return. Refunds totaled \$556,415 during the first year of operations.

The average value of federal refunds in Marion was \$1,294. More than fifty percent of the 471 federal returns filed included the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a valuable tax credit for low and moderate-income families. For those claiming the EITC the average refund was \$1,252,

The state EITC, in the second year of operation, yielded on average \$57 for each of the 163 people filing for that tax benefit. The total value of the state EITC refunds in Marion was \$9,276

The Marion site's operations were funded in part by a grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services.

"The Tax Counseling Project has brought almost a million dollars in tax money back to the Marion community. This not only directly serves the families but the community as a whole," said David Marzahl, Executive Director of the Center for Law & Human Services.

The Tax Counseling Project has been doing tax returns for low-income workers in Illinois since the 1995 tax year. The project operates 25 sites in Chicago, the suburbs and downstate areas. Since the 1995 tax season, the project has brought \$66.6 million in refunds through filing 53,452 tax returns.

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2002 Tax Filing Year Brings Over \$19 Million in Refunds to Illinois
Peoria Yields \$592,021 in Refunds

(Chicago, IL...) The Tax Counseling Project, a program of the Center for Law & Human Services, today announced the final results of the 2002 tax filing season campaign. Overall in Illinois, 14,723 federal income tax returns were completed at 25 community locations throughout the state. These returns yielded \$19,527,034 in federal and state refunds to families in Illinois. There was no cost to the tax filers for these services which were provided by a group of trained and dedicated volunteers.

During the recently completed tax season, 460 federal returns were done by volunteers at the Carver Community Center in Peoria. The 460 returns yielded \$559,462 in federal tax refunds. In addition, state tax refunds of \$32,559 were obtained for clients who filed a state income tax return. Refunds totaled \$592,021, an increase of 13 percent over the prior year.

The average value of federal refunds in Peoria was \$1,372. Fifty percent of the 460 federal returns filed included the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a valuable tax credit for low and moderate-income families. For those claiming the EITC the average refund was \$1,216.

The state EITC, in the second year of operation, yielded on average \$63 for each of the 157 people filing for that tax benefit. The total value of the state EITC refunds in Peoria was \$9,804.

The Peoria site's operations were funded in part by a grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services.

"The Tax Counseling Project has brought almost a million dollars in tax money back to the Peoria community. This not only directly serves the families but the community as a whole," said David Marzahl, Executive Director of the Center for Law & Human Services.

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**2002 Tax Filing Year Brings Over \$19 Million in Refunds to Illinois
Rockford Yields \$295,007 in Refunds**

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During the recently completed tax season, 225 federal returns were done by volunteers at two sites in Rockford. The 225 returns yielded \$279,600 in federal tax refunds. In addition, state tax refunds of \$15,407 were obtained for clients who filed a state income tax return. Refunds totaled \$295,007, an increase of 17 percent over the prior year.

The average value of federal refunds in Rockford was \$1,466. Fifty percent of the 225 federal returns filed included the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a valuable tax credit for low and moderate-income families. For those claiming the EITC the average refund was \$1,258.

The state EITC, in the second year of operation, yielded on average \$61 for each of the 91 people filing for that tax benefit. The total value of the state EITC refunds in Rockford was \$5,507.

The Rockford site's operations were funded in part by a grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services.

"The Tax Counseling Project has brought almost a million dollars in tax money back to the Rockford community. This not only directly serves the families but the community as a whole," said David Marzahl, Executive Director of the Center for Law & Human Services.

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2002 Tax Filing Year Brings Over \$19 Million in Refunds to Illinois
Springfield Yields \$743,117 in Refunds

(Chicago, IL...) The Tax Counseling Project, a program of the Center for Law & Human Services, today announced the final results of the 2002 tax filing season campaign. Overall in Illinois, 14,723 federal income tax returns were completed at 25 community locations throughout the state. These returns yielded \$19,527,034 in federal and state refunds to families in Illinois. There was no cost to the tax filers for these services which were provided by a group of trained and dedicated volunteers.

During the recently completed tax season, 543 federal returns were done by volunteers at the Springfield Learning Center. The 543 returns yielded \$703,386 in federal tax refunds. In addition, state tax refunds of \$39,731 were obtained for clients who filed a state income tax return. Refunds totaled \$743,117 an increase of 29 percent over the prior year.

The average value of federal refunds in Springfield was \$1,578. Fifty percent of the 543 federal returns filed included the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a valuable tax credit for low and moderate-income families. For those claiming the EITC the average refund was \$1,494.

The state EITC, in the second year of operation, yielded on average \$73 for each of the 171 people filing for that tax benefit. The total value of the state EITC refunds in Springfield was \$12,506.

The Springfield site's operations were funded in part by a grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services.

"The Tax Counseling Project has brought almost a million dollars in tax money back to the Springfield community. This not only directly serves the families but the community as a whole," said David Marzahl, Executive Director of the Center for Law & Human Services.

The Tax Counseling Project has been doing tax returns for low-income workers in Illinois since the 1995 tax year. The project operates 25 sites in Chicago, the suburbs and downstate areas. Since the 1995 tax season, the project has brought \$66.6 million in refunds through filing 53,452 tax returns.