

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Free Tax Return Filing Service Starting February 4th

Visalia, CA – January 21, 2009 – Times are tough, and the promise of a hefty tax return has families scrambling to file their returns as quickly and cheaply as possible. In the new era of thriftiness, CSET's free tax preparation service seems almost too good to be true, especially compared to paid tax preparers, who charge hundreds to prepare relatively simple returns.

Many working families will see much larger tax refunds this year due to increased dollar amounts and expanded eligibility for many tax credits, including the Earned Income Credit, Child Tax Credits, and Higher Education Credits. There are also several new credits available, including the Make Work Pay, Home Energy Efficiency, and First-time Homebuyer Credits. Tax time will provide some much needed financial relief to many struggling families.

Now in its 5th year, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers filling assistance to low-income families and individuals with yearly incomes below \$50,000. The program can e-file both federal and state returns, which allows clients to receive refunds in as little as 5-10 days. Volunteers for the program go through extensive training and become certified tax preparers.

The VITA program will begin on Thursday, February 4th and continues throughout Tulare County until April 15th in the communities of Visalia, Orosi, Porterville, and Tulare. In addition to these VITA sites, this year CSET will offer space for the AARP's Tax Counseling for the Elderly Program operating every Monday starting February 1st until April 12th.

Free tax services will be offered at the following locations and times:

Community	Location	Schedule	Appointments
Visalia	Visalia CSET 312 NW 3rd Ave. Visalia, CA 93291	Thursday: 5pm to 7pm (Appointments Only) Saturday: 10am to 3pm (Walk-ins & Appointments)	(559) 732-4194 Saturday appointments available only to unincorporated residents
Tulare	Tulare CSET 223 E. Kern Ave. Tulare, CA 93274	Saturday: 10am to 3pm (Walk-ins & Appointments)	(559) 684-1987 Appointments available only to unincorporated residents
Orosi	Orosi CSET 12384 Avenue 416 Orosi, CA 93647	Saturday: 10am to 3pm (Walk-ins Only)	No Appointments Information Line: (559) 528-1095
Porterville	Porterville CSET 1061 W. Henderson Porterville, CA 93257	Fridays: 5pm to 8pm (Appointments Only) Saturday: 10am to 4pm (Walk-ins & Appointments)	(559) 788-1440 Saturday appointments available only to unincorporated residents
AARP Tax Counseling for the Elderly	Visalia CSET 312 NW 3rd Ave. Visalia, CA 93291	Mondays: 8am to 3pm (Appointments Only)	(559) 733-9650 Appointments available only to senior citizens

About Community Services & Employment Training, Inc. (CSET)

CSET, a nonprofit Community Action Agency, seeks to strengthen youth, families and communities through education, employment training, youth development, mentoring, leadership building, job creation, housing, environmental stewardship and other strategies that support self-reliant families and caring communities.

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