

New Britain HRA seeks volunteer tax preparers

By **SKYLER FRAZER**
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NEW BRITAIN — The Human Resources Agency of New Britain, is seeking volunteers to help prepare income tax returns for residents in the area.

The HRA's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, VITA, provides free tax return assistance for low-to-moderate income people. The program operates at 13 different sites in New Britain, Bristol, Farmington, Meriden, Plymouth, Southington, Wallingford and Vernon.

Last year, more than 6,100 individuals and families in all of these towns received more than \$9.5 million in tax returns thanks to the more than 200 VITA volunteers. HRA has operated the program since 2004.

"The VITA program helps us fulfill our mission to move people to self-sufficiency in a tangible way," said Rocco Tricarico, executive director of the HRA of New Britain. "Every year our dedicated team of volunteers and staff help us do just that. Last year more people received tax refunds. We hope to exceed that in 2019, our 15th year."

Volunteers can select a location that is convenient for you. Volunteers don't need to be an accountant, but they must be certified by the Internal Revenue Service.

The IRS and HRA will introduce volun-

teers to VITA, train them and prepare them for the certification test in early January 2019. The team will teach volunteers how to use IRS online software to prepare returns and will continue coaching even after volunteers are certified.

The HRA's VITA Program receives funding from the IRS, the American Savings Foundation and the United Ways of Central and Northeastern CT, West Central CT and Meriden and Wallingford.

Those interested in volunteering should contact Juan Berrios at 860-225-1084 ext.315 or by email at jberrios@hranbct.org or go to www.hranbct.org/Financial_Services/Volunteer-Income-Tax-Assistance/

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