



*HRA Links  
Local impact to the  
world at large*

*Winter Newsletter  
January - March 2019*

## TAX SEASON BEGINS

HRA's free VITA tax preparation opened on [January 22](#) - even though the government remains on partial shutdown.

Everyone across the country is relieved to learn that IRS will process tax refunds even in the face of the longest shutdown in history.

Over 6,107 low-middle income people in the communities we serve look forward to filing and receiving refunds with the help of HRA's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) volunteers and staff. Last year the tax filers we helped received \$9,568,945 in refunds.

This year the VITA Program will open a new tax preparation site at Farmington's Department of Social Services. The second tax preparation site in Farmington is at Tunxis Community College.

Over 200 HRA IRS certified volunteers will prepare tax returns for people in Bristol, Farmington, Meriden, New Britain, Plymouth, Southington, Vernon and Wallingford at 14 different tax preparation centers. [Learn More](#)



## ENERGY SURGE

Our Energy Program staff have been working hard to keep up with the demand for assistance during the recent cold snap.

Low-income residents in New Britain and Bristol are struggling to keep up with their bills while HRA's staff are doing everything they can to help keep them safe and warm.

Last year HRA's Energy Assistance Program kept over 9,200 people warmer with a combination of funding. This year our applications have already increased by 10.8% over last year at this time. [Learn More](#)



## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION NEWS

- Employees from Davidson Specialty Foods in Newington came to read in honor of Martin Luther King Day. Volunteers read "Lola Loves Stories" and "We March".
- Child Abuse Awareness Prevention month in April: HRA's Early Childhood Education Program will shine a light on this national epidemic by



promoting awareness and teaching children to ask for help.

[Learn More](#)

*Our mission is to improve the quality of life by helping people achieve economic and social potential; responding to the causes and conditions of poverty; and building stronger individuals, families and communities in the greater New Britain area.*

[2016-2017 Annual Report](#)

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[www.hranbct.org](http://www.hranbct.org)**

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