



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
January 30, 2018

Lyndi Warner, Public Information Officer  
pio@kalcounty.com  
(269) 373-5271

## **FREE Tax-a-Thon Event on January 31**

**KALAMAZOO, MI**— The Tax Counseling Initiative (TCI) will kick-off the tax season by sponsoring a Tax-a-Thon event held on January 31 from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department (3299 Gull Road, Kalamazoo, MI).

During the Tax-a-Thon, the Eastside Neighborhood Association will organize a “Show Me the Money” day. Area businesses and organizations will provide information on resources available to the public, and hold workshops on financial empowerment and improvement. Free tax preparation services will be offered through the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program using the new drop-off service option available for the first time this year. The drop-off service option allows residents to bring in their tax documents and fill out the necessary forms. Trained and certified volunteers will complete the return without the resident having to wait. Once the tax return is completed, residents will pick-up documents and review the tax return before final submission. There will also be fun games and prizes available throughout the Tax-a-Thon event for participants.

The Tax Counseling Initiative is a collaborative group of community businesses, organizations and volunteers committed to providing free quality tax preparation and electronic filing for individuals and families with a household income of \$54,000 or less in 2017. Additionally, TCI strives to increase awareness of available federal and state credits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, which is widely recognized as the most effective anti-poverty tool. During the 2017 tax season last year, 27 IRS-certified volunteers worked at 17 locations over 71 days contributing over 1,800 of volunteer hours. The dedicated IRS volunteers served approximately 1,500 families and had a combined total impact exceeding \$3,000,000 in refunds and savings.

The Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department will host the Tax-a-Thon on January 31 and Walk-in Wednesdays every Wednesday starting January 31 to April 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 3299 Gull Road. “This year the Health & Community Services Department will be the only walk-in tax site located in Kalamazoo County,” said Amber Leverette, Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department’s Community Action Agency Manager. “If you are unable to wait, you are encouraged to use the new drop-off

---

**HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

3299 Gull Road | Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Phone: 269.373.5200 | [www.kalcounty.com/hcs](http://www.kalcounty.com/hcs)

service option. Both the Walk-in Wednesdays and Drop-off Services are first-come, first-serve opportunities with no prior appointment needed” said Leverette.

Not able to attend the Tax-a-Thon or Walk-in Wednesday? Not a problem! Additional sites are available for free tax preparation throughout the County during the tax season. Dial 2-1-1 or 1-800-563-5432 for more information on the documents to bring, other site locations and tax preparation times, or to make an appointment at the other participating sites. Additional information for free tax preparation in Kalamazoo County is available at <http://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/>.

Residents should have the following paperwork ready when filing taxes:

- State or Federal photo identification
- Social Security cards for all members of the household
- All W2s, 1095s, 1098s, 1099
- Childcare provider’s information
- Energy bill that shows the home heating credit
- Summer and winter tax bills if you are a homeowner
- Investment statements, amounts of other income, and other applicable tax forms
- Bank account information for direct deposit
- Last year’s tax return, if available

The free tax preparation service is unable to help international taxpayers or taxpayers with rental income, or those who have businesses with expenses over \$25,000, employees, inventory or incurred a loss in 2017.

###

Kalamazoo County Government  
Health & Community Services Department

 [Like Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services](#)  Follow us [@KzooHealth](#)