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PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAMARITAN HOUSE SERVES AS VITA TAX SITE FOR LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS

San Mateo, CA. January 22, 2014 – Beginning January 27th, Samaritan House will partner with the United Way of the Bay Area by offering free tax preparation services for low-income San Mateo County residents. This is the third year that the agency will host Volunteer Income Tax Assistant (VITA) volunteers - who are certified by the IRS - as they serve individuals by appointment throughout the tax season. The program begins January 27th and runs through April 4th and is open to households with a 2013 income of \$52,000 or less.

“We are excited to continue to offer this service to the community,” says Saul A. Gonzalez, Financial Empowerment Manager and Certified Financial Bilingual Coach at Samaritan

House, noting that last year the agency's VITA volunteers helped prepare 242 tax returns and returned over \$449,000 in total refunds to local residents. "This program provides free tax preparation to individuals and families who may not be able to afford a tax preparer, and helps connect low-income earners with the Earned Income Tax Credit to help make ends meet."

Tax preparation appointments are available by appointment Monday, Wednesday, & Friday from 10 am-4 pm at Samaritan House, 4031 Pacific Blvd, San Mateo. For more information call 650-523-0804.

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**SAMARITAN HOUSE – NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR (Tax ID 23-7416272)
4031 Pacific Boulevard, San Mateo, CA 94403**

Since 1974, Samaritan House has been helping families regain self-sufficiency. Working with city and county governments, civic, religious, and school organizations, and over 2,000 volunteers, we provide bilingual counseling and case management, food, clothing for children, healthcare, rental assistance, shelter for the homeless, worker resources, and holiday assistance, all free of charge.

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