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**FREE Tax Help Offered By Bethpage Federal Credit Union  
With *Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program For 2008***

*The Bethpage VITA program renewed to provide free assistance in filing 2007 income tax returns*

*(Bethpage, NY...January 25, 2008)* 2007 year-end wage and earnings reports are arriving in households across Long Island and Bethpage Federal Credit Union (Bethpage) has announced that it will once again offer free tax return assistance to low- and moderate income households — those individuals with 2007 incomes below \$33,241 or joint filers with combined incomes below \$39,783. The program is available at five Bethpage branch locations beginning this February.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is offered by Bethpage as a part of its mission to help Long Islanders in need and to assist in the financial education of those confused by tax laws, credits and deductions. Bethpage will offer VITA services at its Bay Shore, Farmingdale, Freeport, Hempstead, and Riverhead branches on Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons beginning February 4 and continuing through April 12, 2008. The Freeport branch officially opens in March and will offer VITA services thereafter.

For more information, including directions to participating branches, the Wednesday and Saturday hours at each branch, as well as details on what papers to bring, visit Bethpage Federal Credit Union online at: [https://www.bethpage.coop/community\\_schedule.asp](https://www.bethpage.coop/community_schedule.asp). Information is also available by calling (800) 628-7070. Bilingual Tax Assistors are available. It is not necessary to be a credit union member.

“Now in its 5<sup>th</sup> year, VITA is a positive program whereby those who cannot afford to pay for tax preparation assistance receive help from qualified volunteers eager to share their knowledge,” said Assistant Vice President of Community Development Robert Suarez who manages the Bethpage VITA program, “It is a true community service.”

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## **Bethpage 2008 VITA Program**

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Under the guidelines of the program, Bethpage coordinates the services of volunteers -- trained by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to electronically prepare specific Forms, including, among others, 1040EZ, 1040A, and 1040 -- to work with qualifying residents to file income tax returns. Many volunteers are Bethpage employees, giving their time after hours.

“We’re getting out the word about the VITA program because it provides an extraordinary free service for those who really need expert consultations and can most benefit from advocates in the understanding, preparation and filing of tax forms,” said Linda Armyn, Bethpage Vice President of Corporate Development & Government Affairs. “Our Bethpage volunteers not only provide assistance free-of-charge, but educate qualified taxpayers regarding savings eligibility through Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Child Tax Credit, and Credit for the Elderly.”

In addition to qualifying by income, all those interested in using the VITA program to file 2007 tax returns must bring the following materials for review to the volunteers at the participating branches: the year’s tax package of wage and earnings statements (Form W-2), all interest statements (Form 1099-INT), and all other income and expense information. Taxpayers should also bring a social security card and picture identification when they visit a participating Bethpage VITA site. To file taxes electronically on a married filing joint tax return, both spouses must be present.

Bethpage Federal Credit Union is an e-file site where taxpayers can file their income taxes electronically. E-filers get their refunds twice as quickly as those using paper returns and in as little as 10 days when they choose Direct Deposit. Taxpayers who do not have a direct deposit account and wish to receive payment in this format can open a Bethpage account when filing their taxes.

**Bethpage Federal Credit Union** is a full-service, financial cooperative, offering a wide range of consumer products and services as well as investment, insurance, and small business services. A responsible corporate citizen dedicated to the quality of life on Long Island, Bethpage takes a leadership role in addressing issues, from housing to education. Bethpage maintains branches in Bay Shore, Bethpage, Commack, Farmingdale, Freeport, Glen Cove, Hempstead, Huntington, Levittown, Lynbrook, Massapequa, Melville, North Babylon, Port Jefferson, Riverhead and Smithtown with no-surcharge ATM access at 29 Shared Service Centers, King Kullen Grocery Stores, 7-Eleven Convenience Stores, Walgreen’s Pharmacies and Costco Wholesalers.

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