



## NeighborImpact

Critical Needs. Diverse Services. Empowering Change.

### **For Immediate Release March 6, 2007**

**For more information, please contact:**

NeighborImpact

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## **Partnership Connecting People to Tax Resources**

NeighborImpact, a local nonprofit, and the OSU Extension Office Bit Mobile have partnered with the Jefferson County Library to bring a mobile computer lab to Madras so people can file their taxes online using Beehive Cascades ([www.beehivecascades.org/taxes](http://www.beehivecascades.org/taxes)).

Beehive Cascades has information about the Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC) and a free file tax program, Complete Tax, which helps people who make under \$40,000 dollars file Federal and State taxes for free. If people make over \$40,000 dollars they can still file at a low-cost.

“Of course, the tax season is hectic for everyone. But for some it’s actually critical: getting a tax refund back, for low-income individuals, means getting back earned income that they have been unable to collect until now,” says NeighborImpact Services Planning Specialist, Keri Podell.

Last year alone over seven million working families who were eligible did not claim their EITC and these families lost out on 12 billion dollars of EITC money.

People need to sign-up with the Jefferson County Library for a spot on the Bit Mobile either by phone or in person. The Bit Mobile will have six seats available at a time, between noon and 8 pm on April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Jefferson County Library**

Phone: 475-3351

Address: 241 SE 7th Street, Madras

People need come to the Bit Mobile prepared to file their taxes. They must bring all tax-related information, such as W-2's, last year's tax return, social security numbers, etc. If they would like to direct deposit tax refund, they must also bring their bank name, routing number (RTN), and account number.

Helpers will be available to answer questions about using the computer, internet, email and to help navigate screens in the online tax program, called Complete Tax, but the helpers are not tax preparers and will not answer tax questions. Anyone interested in volunteering on the Bit Mobile may call Chloé Frommer, Volunteer Specialist with NeighborImpact at 548-2380, Ext. 110.

NeighborImpact has been developing local partnerships, like this one created between the OSU Extension Service and Jefferson County Library, to help residents connect to the website when they don't have access in their home or office.

Todd Willover, Bit Mobile Manager says, "This partnership fulfills our obligation to the community to help people who don't have the resources to do this by themselves. And the online program itself just shows another benefit of technology in daily life."

*FOR YOUR CALENDAR:*

**Sign-Up to File Taxes For Free Online**

The OSU Extension Bit Mobile, a traveling computer lab, is visiting Jefferson County Library to help people get online and file their taxes for free (if income is under \$40,000 dollars) using CompleteTax program on Beehive Cascades website [www.beehivecascades.org/taxes](http://www.beehivecascades.org/taxes).

When: April 4 and 5

Time: Noon to 8pm

Cost: Free use of computers and computer help;

Free Tax Filing on Beehive if you meet income eligibility

**Sign-up by phone or in person at Jefferson County Library**

Phone: 475-3351

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