



Press Release

SANTANDER SUPPORTS CITY OF NEW YORK TAX PREPARATION SERVICES FOR LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS

Santander is the only bank in NYC to provide branch space for Virtual VITA services offered through Food Bank For New York City

BOSTON, April 3, 2014 –Santander Bank, N.A. announced today that it is supporting the City of New York’s Tax Credit Campaign and Food Bank For New York City by offering branch space to volunteers helping low-income wage earners with free tax preparation through Virtual VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) services. Santander, one of the top U.S. retail banks by deposits, is offering the space in three branches located in Brooklyn, the Bronx and Queens to volunteers of Food Bank For New York City who are preparing 2013 tax returns for local residents.

“The partnership between Food Bank For New York City and Santander is an example of what we can accomplish when the public and private sectors join together to meet the needs of our community,” said Department of Consumer Affairs First Deputy Commissioner Alba Pico. “The trained volunteers working with Food Bank can help clients apply for the Earned Income Tax Credit and other tax credits. We encourage New Yorkers to go get their refund and call 311 or visit nyc.gov/taxprep to learn about how they can file for free.”

Food Bank For New York City offers VITA services to low- and moderate-income New Yorkers. Tax preparation services are offered in English and Spanish. The Santander locations are Virtual VITA intake sites where trained volunteers meet with clients to verify their required tax documents and upload them to a secured online platform where they are prepared by IRS certified volunteers. The Virtual VITA process is more efficient and less time consuming for filers because they do not have to wait while their tax returns are being prepared. Clients make an appointment for a later date to review and file their tax returns once they are completed.

“We appreciate the support from the City of New York and are grateful to our friends at Santander for allowing our volunteers and clients to utilize space at their branches during the busy tax season,” said Dominique Jones, Chief Programs Officer, Food Bank For New York City. “We help thousands of New Yorkers fill out their tax returns each year and applaud Santander for its commitment to making sure that people have access to this important service through its bank facility.”

“We are pleased to support the City of New York by providing space in our branches where volunteers from Food Bank For New York City can assist our neighbors in preparing their tax returns,” said Josephine Moran, Santander region president for New York and Northern New Jersey. “We’re always looking for ways to lend our support and know that helping our community partners can come in many forms, including donating much-needed office space.”



To qualify for Food Bank's free tax assistance, New Yorkers with dependents must earn less than \$52,000 or, without dependents, less than \$20,000. Self-employed taxi drivers and child care providers are also eligible for free tax preparation services.

Eligible residents need to bring their Social Security card or a copy of their Individual Taxpayer Identification Number for themselves and anyone they are claiming on their tax returns. They also need a photo ID. If they are filing jointly, their spouse needs to be present and must bring a photo ID. Filers also need to bring W-2 and 1099 forms for all jobs held in 2013. They also need to bring any tax-related information they received as well as a sample check or bank letter with the routing and account number of the account.

With tax returns due in less than two weeks, on April 15, Food Bank and Santander are encouraging all eligible residents who still need to file their tax returns to visit the Santander branches located at [498 Columbia Street, in Red Hook, Brooklyn](#); [1416 East Avenue \(Parkchester\) in the Bronx](#); and [162-38 Cross Bay Boulevard in Howard Beach, Queens](#).

The Virtual VITA program is part of Santander's ongoing support of the Food Bank For New York, including branch-based food drives, employee volunteers staffing its food pantry and soup kitchen and a low-cost checking account that Earned Income Tax Credit recipients can open for direct deposit of their tax return and long-term savings plan for their future.

About Santander

Santander Bank, N.A. is a top 25 retail bank in the United States by deposits. Its main corporate offices are in Boston and it operates principally in Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island. Santander's 9,469 employees serve its 1.8 million customers through the Bank's 706 branches, 2,074 ATMs, call centers, website and mobile app. Supervised by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and a member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Santander in the United States is a wholly-owned, financially autonomous subsidiary of Banco Santander (NYSE: SAN), a global commercial and retail bank. For more information about Santander, visit www.santanderbank.com or call 877-768-2265.

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