

Get Free Help Filing Your 2010 Tax Returns

Need help with your taxes? Let HOPE assist you in navigating the maze of credits and deductions. We'll even e-file your return for free! HOPE and its partners are sponsoring Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites to help qualifying filers with their 2010 tax returns.



Starting January 18th (February 9th in Memphis), volunteers will be available to help complete and e-file returns.

HOPE can also help determine if you qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), a refundable Federal

income tax credit for lower-income working individuals and families. Individuals and families who use a VITA site will be able to e-file their federal and state tax returns electronically, and receive any tax refund via Direct Deposit in 10-14 days.

Interested parties should bring the following:

- Social Security Cards for taxpayer and all dependents
- HOPE Account Number (if you are already a HOPE member)
- All income statements including, but not limited to, all W-2s and 1099s

Taxes will be done by appointment only at the following locations:

VITA Site Locations:

JACKSON	MEMPHIS	GULF COAST
Terry Road Branch 1748 Terry Road (601) 961-6740	Midtown Branch 1451 Madison Avenue (901) 721-8124	Biloxi Branch 188 Porter Avenue (228) 374-1554

Contact the HOPE VITA site closest to you directly to set up your appointment for tax preparation. If you live in another area, you may call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040 to locate the nearest VITA Site.

Get a Refund Anticipation Loan Without Getting Taken

During income tax season, many people are anxious to immediately take advantage of the money they will be getting back from the IRS and state tax agencies. The problem is, those refund anticipation loans offered by many companies take advantage of the borrower.

HOPE offers low cost refund anticipation loans (RAL) to those who use our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites and receive their refunds via direct deposit to a HOPE account. Compared to other refund anticipation products, the HOPE RAL allows you to keep more of your refund amount for yourself.

Based on these figures, using a HOPE RAL can save members between \$150 and \$225 in up-front fees, and hundreds more over the life of the loan.

Keep more of your money for yourself by visiting HOPE. Take advantage of our VITA site and receive your refund via direct deposit. We will help you do all the paperwork required to complete the RAL application.

To qualify for a HOPE RAL, you must:

- Have an existing HOPE account or open a new account
- Have your tax refund deposited directly into a HOPE account

Please contact your nearest branch or call us at 1-866-321-HOPE if you have questions about a HOPE RAL.

* If filer qualifies for VITA Site Program.

** For new HOPE members, the \$25 fee is for a lifetime membership at HOPE and opens a savings account with a minimum balance.

*** Effective interest rate.

	HOPE RAL	Other RALs
Tax Preparation	\$ 0*	\$ 120
RAL Processing Fee	\$ 0	\$ 30
Membership Fee	\$ 25**	\$ 0
Lender Loan Fee	\$ 0	\$ 30 - \$100
Interest Rate	7%	70% - 700% ***

HOPE Expands into Eastern Mississippi

HOPE is expanding our reach to serve you better and updating our look for 2011.

In the last quarter of 2010, Hope Credit Union merged with East Central Federal Credit Union (ECFCU). The alliance made several new financial products and services available to over 3,000 former ECFCU members and their neighbors in Louisville, Macon and surrounding parts of eastern Mississippi. As a result of the merger, HOPE's 27,000 members have access to 14 branch locations in four states and a national network of ATMs. New members can now take advantage of telephone, online and mobile banking; debit and credit cards; and consumer, mortgage and small business loans along with checking, money market and IRA accounts.

Branch Closing Notice

HOPE branches will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

2011 HOPE HOLIDAY:	DATE OBSERVED:
MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	MONDAY, JANUARY 17
PRESIDENT'S DAY	MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Don't forget: HOPE is always open, even when the branches are closed. Just use the HOPE24 telephone banking system or HOPENet, our internet banking solution.

ECD Becomes Hope Enterprise Corporation

In January 2011, the Enterprise Corporation of the Delta will change its name to the Hope Enterprise Corporation. ECD's board of directors took this action for the following primary reasons:

- Since it was established in 1994, ECD's target market has grown beyond the Delta to encompass distressed communities in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.
- In 2002 ECD became the primary sponsor of the 2,000-member, \$2 million Hope Community Credit Union with the intent of enhancing the shared mission of both organizations. Today, Hope Federal Credit Union, with approximately 27,000 members and \$138 million in assets, has earned national respect as a leader in delivering financial services to underserved communities across the Mid South.
- For years the Enterprise Corporation and the Credit Union have effectively shared common staff, facilities, markets and most importantly our missions. Using HOPE as our unified trade name allows us to brand our work in a manner that better reflects the integrated and dynamic nature of how we operate, and simplifies our marketing, outreach and communications efforts. On this newsletter, our websites, signs and other materials you will notice an updated logo that bridges elements of our history, and our exciting future direction.

Going forward as HOPE, we will continue to make full use of a diverse set of tools - including financial services, policy advocacy and community development innovation - to accomplish our mission. We also want to emphasize our ongoing and substantial commitment to the Delta, as we work to improve lives, build assets and strengthen communities for economically distressed people and places throughout the Mid South.

In Tough Times, HOPE Can Help

Now more than ever, working families are feeling squeezed as household budgets are stretched to the limit. During these tough times it is important to maintain good financial habits and make wise budgeting choices, but sometimes it is hard to know where to begin. Let HOPE help.

HOPE offers free financial education and budget advice to our members. You can go into any HOPE branch and schedule an appointment to get help with planning your financial future. Whether you are trying to manage credit card debt, improve your credit score, get a loan or make the most out of the equity in your home, HOPE can help. Below are some tips from HOPE to help you get your finances on track.

Cut Credit Card Costs

Switch to a credit union credit card - interest rates average more than two percentage points lower than interest rates on bank cards, and have lower fees as well. HOPE offers both secured and unsecured MasterCard options. Both have no annual fee and offer the option of a rewards program for purchases. Pay your credit card bills on time, and, whenever possible, pay the balance each month to improve your credit score and manage your debt.

Pass on Payday Loans

Payday lenders in the Mid South charge interest rates up to 571%. If you need a small loan, HOPE offers a payday loan alternative called StretchPay. StretchPay loans have reasonable terms and much lower interest rates. StretchPay can help you get the money you need without the extra fees and extreme interest rates. For more information on predatory lending, go to the MEPC website, www.mepconline.org.

Tap into Equity

Getting a home equity loan from HOPE can be a smart money move to pay down debt and other expenses. If you have a good amount of equity in your home, it can be an inexpensive way to borrow money at a lower rate than you'd pay on a credit card or personal loan. It can also provide a useful financial cushion in certain cases. When you need extra money, getting funds from your home's equity is a simple solution.

Remember, whatever your financial situation is, it is never too late to ask for help.

HOPE Annual Membership Meeting Announced

The Hope Federal Credit Union Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 26, 2011 at HOPE's main office, located at 4 Old River Place in Jackson, Mississippi. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and last approximately one hour.

The Hope Federal Credit Union annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of its primary sponsor, the Hope Enterprise Corporation. All HOPE members are encouraged to attend the meeting, and receive information about the financial and programmatic activities and plans of your credit union and its sponsoring organization.

At this meeting credit union members will also elect the Board of Directors. Because HOPE converted to a federal charter in 2010, all director positions must be filled at the annual meeting. In accordance with the Hope Federal Credit Union bylaws, the persons listed below are submitted to the membership for consideration for election to the Board of Directors at the 2011 Members Meeting.*

Board of Directors Candidates

2009-12:

Bill Bynum (Hope Enterprise Corporation/Hope Credit Union, Jackson, MS)
Robert Gibbs (Brunini, Grantham, Grower & Hewes, Jackson, MS)
Carol Stewart (Episcopal Diocese of MS, Jackson, MS)
Troy Stovall (Howard University, Washington, DC)
Neddie Winters (Church of the City - Jackson, MS)

2010-13:

Ivye Allen (Foundation for the Mid South, Jackson, MS)
James Brooks (Mississippi Dept. of Education, Jackson, MS)
Carol Burnett (Mississippi Low-Income Child Care Initiative, Biloxi, MS)
George Penick (St. Andrew's Episcopal School, Ridgeland, MS)
Austin Porter III (Porter Law Firm - Little Rock, AR)

2011-14:

Richard Campbell (Hope Enterprise Corporation/Hope Credit Union, Jackson, MS)
Gwen Harmon (National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, TN)
Brenda Richard-Montgomery (Providence Community Housing, New Orleans, LA)
Herman Taylor (University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, MS)
Maura Phillips (Mortgage Guaranty Insurance Corporation, Jackson, MS)

**Nominations for vacancies may also be made by petition signed by one percent of the members with a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 500. Nominations made by petition must be received at HOPE's main office by the close of business on February 14, 2011. The election will not be conducted by ballot and there will be no nominations from the floor. Contact HOPE Secretary Richard Campbell at 601-944-4151 for additional information regarding nominations by petition*

CONTACT HOPE

GENERAL ACCOUNT INFORMATION -

HOPE24 Telephone Banking: (877) 214-HOPE

HOPENet Online Banking: Go to www.hopecu.org, then login to HOPENet.

Deposits - Phone: (866) 321-HOPE

E-mail: deposit@hopecu.org

U.S. Mail: (Do not send cash deposits through the mail):

Hope Credit Union

P.O. Box 22886

Jackson, MS 39225-2886

Consumer Loans - E-mail: consumerloan@hopecu.org

Mortgage Loans - E-mail: mortgageloan@hopecu.org

HOPE Affinity Network - E-mail: affinity@hopecu.org

Supervisory Committee - Phone: (601) 944-1100

Email: supervisory.committee@hopecu.org

BRANCH PHONE NUMBERS:

Dial (866) 321-HOPE to be connected to your local branch.