



## NEWS RELEASE

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### WISE & Healthy Aging Recognizes Its AARP Tax-Aide Volunteers

**SANTA MONICA** (May 21, 2015) - WISE & Healthy Aging, the Santa Monica-based nonprofit social services organization serving older adults, recognized its AARP Tax-Aide volunteers at Bubba Gump restaurant on the world famous Santa Monica Pier. "Tax-Aide volunteers are real individuals donating their time to provide free tax preparation within the Los Angeles Westside," said Grace Cheng Braun, President and CEO of WISE & Healthy Aging. The Tax-Aide Program is a free, volunteer-run tax counseling and preparation service. Volunteers assist in preparing federal and state tax returns to low and moderate income tax payers, with special assistance to those ages 60 and older. All volunteers participate in an extensive, IRS-approved training course and pass a qualifying exam to become IRS-certified tax preparers annually.

This year, from February to April 15, 49 Tax-Aide Counselors donated over 5,000 hours of volunteer service throughout nine locations on the Westside. During the tax season, tax returns are prepared at Ken Edwards Center, Freda Mohr Senior Center, Felecia Mahood Multipurpose Center, Westchester Senior Center, Culver City Senior Center, Joslyn Senior Center, Claude Pepper Senior Citizen Center, Rogers Park and Roxbury Park. For the 2015 tax season, in these communities supported by WISE & Healthy Aging, more than 4,000 tax returns were filed with a 99 percent accuracy rate, surpassing last year's 93 percent accuracy rate. Throughout the rest of the year, until the next tax season, volunteers will continue to provide tax counseling and preparation on a weekly basis at WISE & Healthy Aging's Santa Monica headquarters located at 1527 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

For more information about the Tax-Aide Program, call WISE & Healthy Aging at (310) 394-9871 or visit [www.wiseandhealthyaging.org](http://www.wiseandhealthyaging.org).

(photo included)

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WISE & Healthy Aging is the result of the 2007 merger of WISE Senior Services and Center for Healthy Aging. With a combined 70 years' experience serving older adults, the nonprofit, social services organization, headquartered in Santa Monica, brings together a synergy of services, information, programs and support for seniors, those who care for them and the professionals who work with them. For more information, call (310) 394-9871 or visit [www.wiseandhealthyaging.org](http://www.wiseandhealthyaging.org)

**WISE & Healthy Aging's AARP Tax Aid Volunteer Counselors**

