

VOLUNTEERING

CAA is seeking aid with tax prep

VITA program helps families, individuals to file tax returns

By Tarryl Jackson

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The Community Action Agency is trying to get at least 100 volunteers to help local residents file their 2010 income taxes, starting in January.

The agency's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program provides free tax preparation to families and individuals whose household income is less than \$49,000.

With many people unemployed and living on unemployment benefits, "I think there's going to be a lot more people that fit in that category that we'll be able to help this year," said Chris Kilmer, the nonprofit group's director of community programs.

This year, more than 100 volunteers helped bring in more than \$6.8 million in tax refunds to more than 5,400 households in Jackson, Hillsdale and Lenawee counties.

The year before, about 50 volunteers helped bring in about \$4.9 million to more than 4,200 households.

This will be Faith Rueckert's sixth year volunteering for the program. Rueckert, who lives in the Brooklyn area, said she loves working with numbers and people.

"They thank you over and over for the help you give to them," said Rueckert, 56. "It's just amazing how many people need our help."

Spring Arbor resident Jerry Hatton, who has volunteered for eight years, said he likes the satisfaction of helping people get their tax returns.

"The tax laws can be confusing and difficult for them to pull together," said Hatton, 64.

Volunteers greet and register taxpayers, file forms to collect tax credits, prepare returns and translate for clients who do not speak English.

In January, volunteers will receive free instruction and training materials. Volunteers are encouraged to give three to six hours a week during peak tax time in February.

Tax help

To volunteer for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, call the Community Action Agency at 784-4800 or 800-491-0004, or visit www.caajlh.org.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2010

The Brooklyn Exponent

Volunteers needed to help people file tax returns

The Community Action Agency's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program is looking for volunteers. The VITA program provides free tax preparation to families and individuals whose annual household income is up to \$49,000. Volunteers are needed to greet and register taxpayers, file for tax credits and prepare returns and to translate for clients who do not speak English. Volunteers receive free, IRS sanctioned instruction and training materials in January.

If you are interested in volunteering or if you want more information, contact the Jackson County Community Action Agency office at 784-4800 or 1-800-491-0004 or visit the Web at www.caajlh.org.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2010

THE DAILY TELEGRAM, ADRIAN, MICHIGAN

Volunteers needed for 2011 income tax season

ADRIAN — Community Action Agency's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is seeking volunteers for the 2011 income tax season.

The VITA program provides free tax preparation to families and individuals whose annual household income is up to \$49,000. Volunteers are needed to greet and register taxpayers, file for tax credits and prepare returns and to translate for clients who do not speak English. Volunteers receive free, IRS-sanctioned instruction and training materials in January.

In Lenawee County, 1,221 households were assisted with 2009 taxes, resulting in returns totaling more than \$1,650,000.

Volunteers are needed during the day, evenings and weekends and are encouraged to give between three and six hours a week during peak tax time in February.

To sign up to be a VITA volunteer, contact the Lenawee County Community Action Agency office at 263-7861 or 1-800-438-1845, or visit the website at www.caajlh.org.



Chamber HAPPENINGS

News For and About our Members

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Now is the time to sign up to be a VITA volunteer! Invite friends and family to join you. If you are interested in volunteering or if you want more information, please contact the Lenawee County Community Action Agency office at 517-263-7861 or 1-800-438-1845 or visit our website at www.caajlh.org

