

## Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

### About Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) is a nationwide program sponsored by the IRS that is available during tax season.

Volunteers provide basic tax preparation assistance to individuals and families with a household income of approximately \$53,000 a year or less.

This service allows low-income families to file their taxes for free - without expensive tax prep services or predatory refund-anticipation loans. Our VITA program also helps clients receive valuable tax credits or programs, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit and Home Heating Credit.

The VITA Program ensures that low-income individuals receive the maximum refund possible, to meet their own pressing basic needs or save for the future.

### 2017 VITA Results

**923** household served

\$19,200 average UWVC VITA Client's Income

\$240 average saved in tax preparation fees

\$221,520 saved in tax prepare fees

\$1,800 average refund per household

**\$1.3 million in refunds!**

### Volunteers

No experience is necessary to make a huge impact on lives of those in need. Training and guidance is provided by the IRS and our experienced volunteers. Interested Volunteers can be a VITA Greeter or Tax Preparer.

VITA volunteers enjoy the direct client assistance, the opportunity to network and hone new skills, and seeing the impact of their work right away.

### Tax Assistance Services

**Full Service Tax Preparation:** Qualifying clients can have their taxes prepared by an IRS certified volunteer.

**MyFreeTaxes.com:** For taxpayers that do not qualify for full-service tax prep or those who prefer to do their own taxes with a "coach" available. We offer access to a free H&R Block software to prepare taxes, with a 24-hour helpline.



For more information about VITA and becoming a volunteer, please contact Amanda Reel, 734-677-7234, [areel@uwwashtenaw.org](mailto:areel@uwwashtenaw.org)