

## EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT CAMPAIGN



United Way Silicon Valley is working to connect people to free tax preparation and access to the federal *Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)* -- as well as other tax credits to help working families increase their incomes and create savings. The EITC campaign helps low-income people to keep more of their hard-earned money and avoid paying unnecessary fees for commercial tax preparation and "rapid refund" loans. The money returned to these individuals and families through the EITC is critical in helping them meet basic needs and achieve a level of financial stability. United Way Silicon Valley is a leading partner in a Santa Clara County community-wide EITC coalition, which brings together community-based organizations, public and government agencies and financial institutions.

In 2006, volunteers at over twenty locations helped nearly 4,000 Silicon Valley residents prepare and file their tax returns for free -- and receive several million dollars in federal refunds. However, thousands more of eligible families were not able to take advantage of this service. Our goal is to assist an additional 1,000 families and bring several million dollars more into the community. **Volunteer recruitment efforts are underway and we need you.**

### WHY IS THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT IMPORTANT?

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a federal tax benefit for working people who earn low or moderate incomes. Working families can get as much as \$4,500 back in tax refunds. These substantial tax credits can be the first step in helping families meet their every needs, as well as save towards higher education, starting a new business or buying a first home. This is money that can make a real difference in people's lives.

### WHAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE AT VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA) SITES?

Free, quality tax preparation and electronic filing

- Assistance in signing up for certain public benefits
- Help for immigrants (multilingual services and applications for tax payer identification numbers)
- Information and referral to credit and debt counseling, financial education, homeownership counseling and individual development accounts

### WAYS TO HELP

#### Volunteer

- The United Way EITC campaign needs more than 100 volunteers to help prepare taxes or assist at the sites.
- Volunteers receive free training and IRS certification.

#### Sponsor the Campaign

- Work with your company to provide a financial or in-kind (e.g. laptops and printers) contribution to support the campaign's success.

You can volunteer as a tax preparer, financial counselor or fill another important role at one of the coalition sites. You will receive professional IRS training as a tax assistant, tax reviewer, tax screener certified and non-certified, greeter and interpreter. As a volunteer tax assistant or reviewer you will need to complete a free training to get your IRS certification in November. All volunteers will be asked to commit time from early January through April 15th to volunteer during the 13 week tax season. You can register for the training that coincides with the volunteer position for which you are applying.

### VOLUNTEER CONTACT:

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