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Lake Area United Way

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United Way Needs Volunteers Interested in Providing Volunteer Income Tax Assistance to Local Residents

VITA Volunteers Needed This Tax Season!

Want to help working low-income families, the elderly, and people with disabilities in a meaningful way?

Each year, people like you contribute their time and expertise to provide tax preparation assistance to thousands of individuals and families across Lake County. In 2008, VITA provided free tax services directly impacting 1,559 people and families resulting in more than \$1,352,000 in federal and state tax refunds.

Lake Area United Way is looking for volunteers who are interested in providing this critical service to individuals and families with a low-to-moderate household income of less than \$49,000. Many in our community don't have access to affordable tax preparation or are unaware of the VITA program.

A few hours of your volunteer time can literally put thousands of dollars in their pockets by making sure they receive all of the tax credits that they are entitled to without being charged fees by commercial tax preparers. This can in turn help them avoid accessing predatory loans to make ends meet.

Preparing taxes is a great opportunity to learn a new skill, meet new people, and make a significant impact in the lives of the less fortunate. We are seeking friendly and dependable volunteers with some knowledge of taxes, basic computer abilities, good communication skills and a willingness to learn.

VITA volunteers are asked to commit to one 4-5 hour shift per week during the tax season, mid-January to mid-April. Tax volunteers must also attend training or learn online and pass an IRS certification test. Trainings will be held in January.

If you have experience doing tax returns or just want to learn, and want to contribute to your community, we have the volunteer program for you! We are currently seeking volunteers for the following VITA positions:

- Volunteer Tax Preparer
- Volunteer Greeters and Screeners
- Volunteer Interpreter

Imagine saving someone from a mortgage foreclosure, helping seniors to afford their medications or putting food on a family's table? As a VITA volunteer, you will help working low-to-moderate income individuals and families keep their hard earned money.

This effort is part of Lake Area United Way's commitment to positively impact the financial stability of our citizens. The goal is to help move working people toward greater economic self-sufficiency and to help give them the tools to build assets.

For more information, please call Chris Eller Esparza, Lake Area United Way's Volunteer Coordinator, at (219) 923-2302, extension 311.

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