

# VITA

Looking for a Way to Feel Good at Tax Time?

Be a VITA (**V**olunteer **I**ncome **T**ax **A**ssistance) volunteer!

**You can be personally involved in promoting financial stability to low-income individuals and families by volunteering to provide free tax preparation at the Eaton County United Way's VITA site.**

To help ensure that Eaton County's working families are filing for the tax credits they have earned and to help those families save hundreds of dollars in commercial tax fees and predatory "rapid refund" loans, the Eaton County United Way supports Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) awareness. Families all over the county making a household income of less than \$40,000 can access VITA sites and have their taxes prepared for **FREE! The EITC is one of the most effective anti-poverty programs in America and lifts more children out of poverty than any single program or category of programs in the United States.** Our VITA site will ensure that eligible families receive their often-unclaimed Earned Income Tax Credit.

Such a volunteer role is a unique way to be involved in direct service and see the "fruits of your labor." It can be a moving experience to help a working poor family realize the tremendous financial boost that results from their Earned Income Tax Credit.

- **No accounting experience needed.** Tax software guides you every step of the way, or you can volunteer to do customer service.
- **No liability to volunteers.** Free training is provided beginning as early as October/November and sites are IRS-approved. The tax preparation service is provided January through April.
- **Time commitment is up to you.** Volunteer as much or as little as you like.
- **Evening and daytime hours available.** Select times that are convenient for you. Volunteer work hours are flexible, based upon volunteer's desired commitment.

If you are interested in volunteering as a VITA tax assistance volunteer, email Joni Risner at [joni@ecuw.org](mailto:joni@ecuw.org) or call 517-543-5402.