Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program
FREE, quality tax return preparation for individuals and families

PROGRAM GOALS
1. To help low-to-moderate income families with tax preparation. Taxpayers are assisted with receiving tax credits that may add more than a month’s worth of salary to the individual or family’s annual income.

2. To provide financial literacy education to Kenosha County residents to promote self-sufficiency through wealth building and debt-reduction outreach programs for those outside the financial mainstream. Assets give people a stake in their future and in their community.

ELIGIBILITY AND SITE INFORMATION
On-site Assistance is available at the following sites for individuals and families that make less than $53,000:

- Kenosha County Job Center - January 30 through April 9 on Tuesday evenings from 6 - 9:00 pm or Saturdays from 9:00 am - noon
- Salem Community Library - March 3 through March 31 by appointment
- ELCA Outreach Center - February 4 through February 25 on Thursdays from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
- Twin Lakes Community Library - February 7, 14, 21, and 28th on Thursdays from 4 pm - 7:30 pm
- Kenosha Public Library - Northside - February 2, 9, 16, and 23rd from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

*Free online tax preparation will also be available on the United Way of Kenosha website for those individuals and families making less than $60,000, at www.kenoshaunitedway.org/vita.

PROGRAM RESULTS

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers Recruited</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>83</td>
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<tr>
<td>Returns Filed</td>
<td>1,862</td>
<td>2,388</td>
<td>2,781</td>
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<td>Total Refunds</td>
<td>$1,368,040</td>
<td>$1,745,566</td>
<td>$1,980,338</td>
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More than $8.58 million refunded to local residents in the past six years!

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
People who earn up to $53,000 can claim refunds as high as $5,657!
The average is about $1,900.
Research shows the earned-income tax credit lifts more children out of poverty than any federal program. That’s because the credit gives a big raise – up to 40 percent – to working low-income parents.

*25 percent of those eligible for this credit do not apply for it!
GET INVOLVED!

Become a VITA volunteer today and help low-income taxpayers move toward financial stability! Register by contacting Laurie McDonald today at lmcdonald@kenoshauunitedway.org or by phone at 262-658-4104.

Volunteer FAQs

I don’t have any experience with tax preparation, can I still volunteer?
Yes! We only ask that volunteer tax preparers have an interest in tax preparation as well as experience working with a computer. If tax preparation isn't for you, there are other volunteer opportunities available such as, greeters, language interpreters, interviewers, quality reviewers, and site coordinators.

What is the deadline for becoming certified?
Volunteer tax preparers must be certified no later than January 25, 2016. Most clients visit tax sites in February and March, so tax preparers will be trained in January. Training sessions will take place the first three Saturdays in January. Training can also be completed online at www.linklearncertification.com.

What is the time commitment for volunteers?
Each volunteer must commit to training, which takes an average of eight hours, and we ask that volunteers prepare taxes four-five sessions, which would be 12-15 hours of preparation.

Can I still volunteer if I am not able to attend the training?
Training and certification is required for all volunteer tax preparers. However, we offer self-paced online training for volunteers as an alternative to classroom training and is available at www.linklearncertification.com. You can also volunteer as an interpreter (Spanish-speakers) or as a greeter.

What if I have questions or need assistance while I’m preparing a client’s return?
Each site has a coordinator who is available to assist you and review each return before it is submitted.

PROGRAM PARTNERS

Associated Bank
Carthage College
ELCA Outreach Center
Gateway Technical College
Guaranty Bank
Kenosha County Job Center
Salem Community Library

Kenosha Community Foundation
Kenosha Public Library
Kenosha Rotary West Foundation
Twin Lakes Community Library
IRS

VITA Coalition:

United Way of Kenosha County
Carthage
United Way of Kenosha County
US Bank