

Volunteer tax preparers give a financial boost

A program known as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) helps lift people out of poverty

Representatives from the IRS, nonprofits and business leaders heard about the positive results of Rhode Islanders applying for earned income credits last month during press conferences at the John Hope Settlement House and Woonsocket's Museum of Work and Culture.

Deanna "DeeDee" Brown and Vivian Moreno are among many who have either applied or helped others receive the credit. Brown recalled how her mother used her EITC money for a down payment on a home. Moreno works as a Volunteer Income Tax Preparer and has ensured that many individuals have filled out the right paper work to receive earned income credit.

Click [here](#) to see a video produced by United Way Worldwide on Vivian Moreno's work as a volunteer income tax preparer.

CFO of Woonsocket Family Services CAP and volunteer income tax preparer of the year, Rita Gandhi, left, poses with Meg Chevalier, stakeholder relationship tax consultant IRS/SPEC, at a recent press conference to promote earned income credits and volunteer income tax preparation.

United Way of R.I. sponsors Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites throughout Rhode Island where IRS certified volunteers for free complete tax returns of working families and individuals making \$49,000 or less. The

certified volunteers are helping individuals and married couples to determine what refunds they are eligible for including the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), education credits, child-care credits and other deductions.

At free-tax preparation sites across Rhode Island, tax returns can be filed electronically at no cost, with most direct-deposit refunds received in an average of seven-to-10 days.

If you visit a VITA site, bring the following information, as applicable:

All Social Security numbers (or ITINs) and birthdates for all filers listed on tax return income statements.

W2s and 1099s for each job held during the 2009 tax year.

Tax return from the previous year.

A voided check from which your account information may be obtained so that your 2009 refund may be deposited automatically into your account through direct deposit.

The amount of rent paid, or homeowner statements (Form 1098) and property tax payable in 2009.

Childcare expenses including provider name and address.

Education expenses for children in grades K-12 (notebooks, music classes, cost of instruments, etc.).

Expenses for college (Form 1098-T).

Interest statement for student loans (Form 1098-E).



Any charitable donations.

For more information about eligibility for the EITC program, and to schedule an appointment for free tax-preparation services, call toll-free 2-1-1 to find a tax-preparation site near you.

See the VITA/EITC flyer in **English** and **Spanish** for more information.

About United Way of Rhode Island

United Way of Rhode Island has been working to improve the quality of life in Rhode Island communities for over 80 years.

UWRI's mission is to mobilize the caring power of the community to improve the lives of people in need and address the issues Rhode Islanders care most about. United Way's goal is to create long-lasting changes that prevent problems from happening in the first place. We believe that all Rhode Islanders deserve the opportunity to have a better life, as when any one of us succeeds, we all succeed. At United Way, we refer to this as advancing the common good. For more information, visit www.LIVEUNITEDri.org.