

VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance)

2017 PROGRAM OUTCOMES



The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program provides free income tax preparation services to low and moderate-income individuals and families. Community volunteers are trained as tax preparers and meet with clients one-on-one to file their taxes. VITA is an IRS program initiated locally by United Way of Lancaster County.

Outcomes	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	% Increase from 2016	5 Year Growth
Federal Returns Prepared	3,701	4,850	6,073	7,487	8,720	+16%	+136%
Total Refunds to Clients	\$4,267,165	\$5,685,004	\$7,754,911	\$9,633,756	\$11,477,933	+19%	+169%
Client \$\$ Saved in Tax Prep Fees	\$740,200	\$970,000	\$1,214,600	\$1,497,400	\$2,364,453	+58%	+219%

WHY IS VITA IMPORTANT?

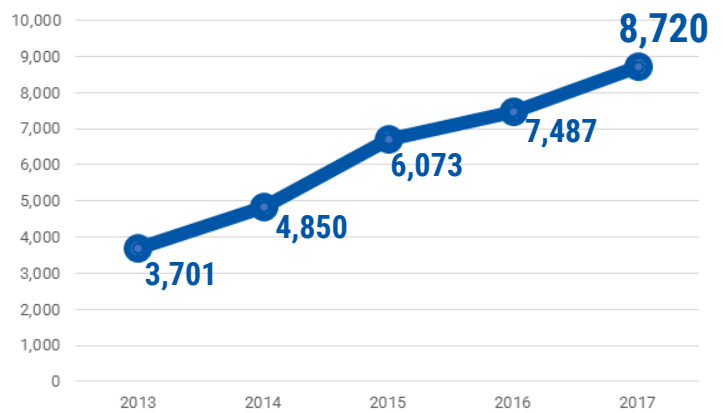
- Through the efforts of community volunteers, VITA helps those who need it most keep their hard earned money. Tax time provides many low income families the one time of year that they can save for the future.
- The average tax return costs a taxpayer \$273. This is money that can be used to buy groceries or help with rent.
- VITA brings millions of dollars back into the local economy through refunds and valuable tax credits, like the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). VITA volunteers are trained to recognize when the EITC is available to taxpayers. EITC provides a credit up to \$6,242 for low- to moderate-income workers.



2017 QUICK FACTS

- **2017 Volunteers: 212**
- **2017 VITA Sites: 17**
- **Average Income of VITA Clients: \$21,666**
- **Average Tax Refund: \$1,316**
- **Clients claiming the EITC: 2,329 (\$2.9 million)**

TOTAL RETURNS PREPARED IN LANCASTER COUNTY



**IT IS YOUR MONEY.
YOU EARNED IT.
WE WILL HELP YOU CLAIM IT.**

United Way of
Lancaster County

