

[Home](#) > [SPEC](#) > [Volunteer Programs](#) > 40th Anniversary Stories

SEARCH the INSIDER

[W&I Home](#)

[About Wage & Investment](#)

-- W&I ORGANIZATIONS --

[BMO](#)

[CARE](#)

[CAS](#)

[Communications & Liaison](#)

[Compliance](#)

[EEO & Diversity](#)

[EITC Office](#)

[Electronic Tax Administration](#)

[HCTC Program Office](#)

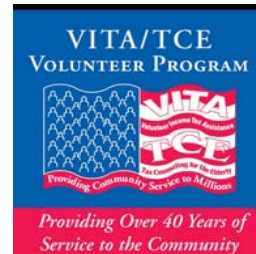
[Human Capital Office](#)

[Pre-Refund Program Office](#)

[Strategy & Finance](#)

[Taxpayer Correspondence](#)

[Helpful Links](#)



VITA/TCE 40th Anniversary Stories

La Dolce VITA

Here's a question we can ask ourselves:
How could we ever get along without our
VITA volunteers?

Here's a short and sweet answer: We
couldn't.

Click [here](#) to read more about it!



Commissioner Shulman and W&I Commissioner Rick Byrd, Jr. (both upper right) stand with honorees at a reception in their honor at IRS Headquarters April 14.

San Antonio, Texas

W&I Commissioner **Rick Byrd** started his San Antonio meeting April 21 putting the most important item first. He presented VITA Volunteer Paul Molina with a trophy celebrating the 40 years he has served his community. Molina is not



From left are: W&I Commissioner **Rick Byrd**, John Scarfo, City of San Antonio Special Projects Coordinator, **Paul Molina**, 40-year VITA volunteer, Margaret Oser, United Way Director Issue Council & Neighborhood Initiatives, JoAnn Govea, Senior Tax Consultant, Ashley Harris, Generations Federal Credit Union Director of Public Relations, and Senior Tax Consultant **Cindy Henrich**.

only a dedicated VITA volunteer with many years of service, but he is also a former revenue agent. Byrd continued his meeting by participating in a roundtable discussion with members of ACCESS, the San Antonio Coalition at United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County.

Las Vegas, Nev.

Just a few days after the April 15 deadline, Consumer Credit Counseling Services hosted an appreciation luncheon for approximately 30 AARP volunteers at Ricardo's Restaurant in Las Vegas, Nev. During the luncheon, SPEC's Relationship Manager **Steve Epstein** made a special presentation to AARP Nevada State Coordinator Budd Bornhoft. Epstein presented the long-time coordinator with a certificate of appreciation and an engraved clock. Bornhoft is stepping down after years of leading the organization's volunteer activities.



Las Vegas SPEC Relationship Manager **Steve Epstein** (right) presents an award to AARP Nevada State Coordinator Budd Bornhoft (left).

Baton Rouge, La.



From left: Territory Manager **Jan Pretus**, Ruth Montgomery-38 years' service, Roberts Rogers-25 years, Annie Bowdry-32 years, and Senior Tax Consultant **Diane Denton**.

Capital Area Asset Building Coalition celebrated their special recognition ceremonies April 28 at the Southern University Ag Center. Partners, site coordinators and preparers were on hand along with SPEC Territory Manager **Jan Pretus** and Sr. Tax Consultant **Diane Denton**, to commemorate the outstanding efforts of the VITA workers for a successful filing season.

Awards were presented for Most Returns Prepared (Marlene Martinez, Catholic Charities VITA); Site Coordinator of the Year (Tamara Davis, LSU VITA); Preparer of the Year (Vernita Nelson, Mid City VITA); Sites of the Year (Catholic Charities and Southern Law Center); Coalition Partner of the Year (City of Baton Rouge, Office of Social Services); Most Accurate Site of the Year (W. Baton Rouge VITA); and IRS Partner Recognition Award (Southern University Law Center.)

El Paso, Texas



El Paso-area site coordinators celebrate the end of the 2010 filing season - front row from left: Lorraine Frias, Lisa Marie Gutierrez, Armida Patino, Martha Campa, Martha Parton; back row from left: Araceli Hernandez, Brittany Kellerman, George Inostroza, Petra Abbott, Erika Madrid, Larry Garcia, Linda Austin, Jorge Torres, Gerald Fleharty and Steve Arvizu.

The El Paso Coalition for Family Economic Progress held their annual VITA

Volunteer Appreciation dinner on April 28, 2010, with approximately 120 volunteers and guests, in attendance. The Coalition honored the dedicated efforts of the volunteers and shared some outstanding achievements as well.

Volunteer and Site Coordinator Jorge Torres was honored for 20 years of VITA service and for his contributions as a coordinator. The Northeast YMCA Site was presented with a trophy for their 30 years of continued VITA Service. Everyone agreed it was good times, good food, great company and a wonderful event.

Crystal City, Texas



Standing from left: Gloria Hernandez, VITA Chair; Rolando Garcia, Site Coordinator; Joe Lopez, Housing Director; SPEC Tax Consultant **Juan Carrizales**; Miroslava Acosta, VITA Coalition Secretary; Rolando Saucedo, Zavala County Bank; Jesse Gonzalez, County Commissioner. Seated from left: Rosa Maria Ugarte, Zavala County Bank; Sandra Zavala, Futuro Communities Board Member; Maria Contreras, Site Coordinator; Alma Mendoza, HEB Manager.

The Zavala County VITA Coalition located in Crystal City, Texas, celebrated the end of filing season with a volunteer recognition party held Saturday, April 10, at the Activity Center of the Crystal City Housing Authority.

Gloria Hernandez, Zavala County VITA Chair, hosted the party to thank volunteers for their hard work and to recognize community leaders for their involvement. Likewise SPEC Tax Consultant **Juan Carrizales** expressed his gratitude for their help in providing free income tax preparation to the local residents.

Topeka, Kan.

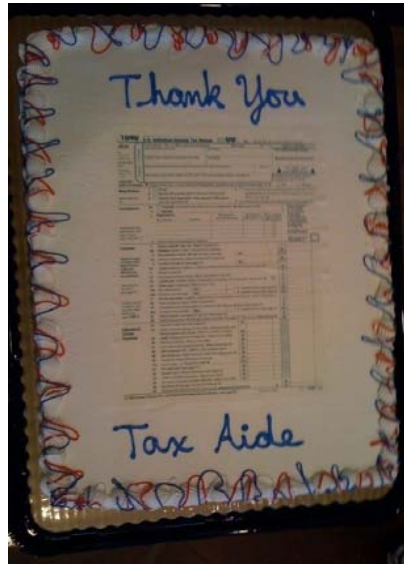
This article ran in the *Topeka Capital Journal* April 18, 2010.

Sylvia Weichold, director of the VITA site at the Docking State Office Building, was honored for 40 years of service to the community by Commissioner Doug Shulman at a ceremony April 14 in Washington, D.C. "The best part of volunteering is simply

helping others, and I don't have any plans to stop," Weichold said when describing what motivates her year after year. The VITA site at Docking has prepared and filed more than 4,000 tax returns for area residents who qualify for the free service this year.

Her story also ran in the [Kansas City Star](#) and on local television station [WIBW](#).

Bryan, Texas



AARP Tax-Aide Texas volunteers celebrated the end of filing season with a luncheon held at La Rivera restaurant in Bryan, Texas. District 4 volunteers from Brenham, Bryan and College Station areas were on hand to receive accolades from District 4 Coordinator Marlene Reinschmidt, who praised them for successfully e-filing 2,199 tax returns.

Besides the distribution of pens for 5, 10, and 15 years of volunteer service, Senior Tax Consultant Airon Andrews also presented recognition certificates and tote bags. Chuck Gates was also honored with a plaque and gift. He is retiring after 15 years of volunteer service. Everyone agreed the highlight of the event was a cake that depicted a Form 1040. All the volunteers knew what to do—it was filed immediately.

Las Vegas, Nev.

The Great Basin College hosted a volunteer appreciation event April 21 for both Pahrump Tax Aide volunteers and the GBC VITA volunteers. The two Pahrump VITA sites are members of the Las Vegas Coalition, Earn It Keep It Save It.

The Las Vegas SPEC office provided the plaques for the event which started with appreciation remarks from SPEC Territory Manager Debra Patterson. The site coordinator and the SPEC



Front row from left: Lilia Rodriguez, tax Preparer (TP), Diane Lake-Administrative, Fern Payne-Coodinator Pahrump Bob Ruud Community

relationship manager assisted the Pahrump Town Manager Bill Kohbarger and Town Board member Vicky Parker in handing out appreciation plaques.

Center, Ruth Stickel-TP, Lydia McCoy-TP
Back – Starting from the left, Mary Balloqui-Coordinator Great Basin College Pahrump, Sherril Wondra-TP, Anne Vignoni-Head-TP, Sandra Jennings-TP, John Meyers-TP

During the ceremony Fern Payne was recognized for 25 years of volunteer work with the VITA Program. She coordinates the Pahrump Tax Aide sites that assisted more than 300 taxpayers this tax season. GBC was recognized for hosting the program and providing the certificates. This is their first year operating as a VITA site. In closing, Kohbarger said “The impact of the program to the rural areas is close to \$1 million dollars.” due to the multiplier effect.

Oklahoma City, Okla.



2010 Big Five Community Service volunteers gathered for a group photo. Holding the Partnership plaque is their Executive Director, Carol Ammons. Big Five serves five rural counties in Oklahoma.

Community Services, Inc., an Oklahoma Community Action Agency, celebrated the end of filing season with a catered luncheon on May 7, for approximately 25 VITA volunteers. Territory Manager Karen O’Neill, presented Community Program Director Beth Parker, with two awards. The first was a special trophy recognizing the site for 32 years of operation as a VITA site. The second was a plaque to Ms. Parker for her 28 years of dedicated service to the VITA Program. O’Neill also presented VITA Program Coordinator, Donna Pound, with the Oklahoma City Territory Partnership plaque for outstanding performance in 2010.

College students from Southeastern Oklahoma State University serve as some of the

volunteers at the site. The University trains and certifies them and the students receive extra credit for volunteering.

Chattanooga, Tenn.

An article in the *Chattanooga Times-Free Press* (dated 4/18/10) paid tribute to Roy Turley, who has more than 40 years of service with the VITA and TCE Programs, as being honored by the IRS for his service.

The article promoted VITA and TCE as IRS-sponsored programs that offer free tax help to low-to-moderate income people who cannot prepare their own tax returns. It mentioned that IRS-certified volunteers sponsored by religious, social and nonprofit organizations or the military receive training to help prepare tax returns in communities across the country.

San Antonio, Texas

The University of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio, Texas celebrated 25 years as a VITA site in 2010. UIW President Dr. Agnese and Dean of the University Dr. Daly presented a plaque to the VITA site founder, James Donovan and to Site Coordinators Theresa Tiggeman, Robin Guerrero and Tracie Edmond for their years of dedicated service.

Senior Tax Consultant **Cindy Henrich** also presented Tiggeman with a trophy in recognition of the University's 25

years of support to the VITA Program. Four volunteers, Bea Abercrombie, Danielle Black, John Nelson and Rose Albright, were also recognized for their significant contributions to the Program.



Celebrating 25 years of service to their community are, from left: VITA volunteers John Nelson, Rose Albright and Bea Abercrombie, Site Coordinator Tracie Edmond, James Donovan, Founder; Site Coordinator Theresa Tiggeman; Dr. Daly, Dean; and Site Coordinator Robin Guerrero.

Saline, Kan.

The Saline County EITC Coalition held its volunteer recognition on April 23 at the Volunteer Connection. The



From left: Glen Eaton, Pauline Eaton, Roberta Rogers, Dorothy Hutchinson, Alan Fitzgerald, Mike Wilson, and Jim Holder.

Executive Director Nancy Klostermeyer started the festivities with opening remarks followed by lunch.

Pauline Eaton, a 20-year VITA volunteer received a plaque for her years of service. Pauline is primarily the tax law and TaxWise trainer, along with other key duties.

Four volunteers from the Saline County EITC Coalition received a President's Volunteer Service Award for their total volunteer service hours in 2009. VITA Coordinator Mike Wilson received the Gold Award for 500 or more hours of volunteer work in a 12-month period. VITA volunteer Dorothy Hutchinson received the President's Lifetime Volunteer Service Award which is given in recognition of cumulative hours served to the Volunteer Connection. She also received the Bronze Award which represents 100 to 249 hours of volunteer work in a 12-month period.

AARP Coordinator Jim Holder and VITA volunteer Pauline Eaton received the Silver Award for 250 to 299 hours of volunteer work in a 12-month period.

Hutchinson, Kan.

The Hutchinson VITA site celebrated 30 years as a VITA site April 28, 2010. Debbie Berndsen, Director of The Volunteer Center of Reno County, started the festivities with opening remarks. SPEC Territory Manager **Kate Lett-Deathe** presented the site with a trophy for 30 years' dedicated service to VITA and the community. She and Relationship Manager Yalonda Dennis also made presentations to the volunteers for their service.

The Hutchinson site is VITA Grant recipient. The VITA funds have allowed them to recruit 11 new volunteers and expand their return preparation to include evening hours. As a result, return preparation rate has increased by 23.7%. They all agreed the volunteer luncheon recognition was awesome!

Eagle Pass, Texas

Judge Jose Aranda hosted an end-of-filing-season celebration at his home May 5 for the Maverick County VITA Coalition, which was attended by many community leaders.



Community leaders attending the celebration in Maverick were, from left: Tax Consultant **Juan Carrizales**; Ramsey Cantu, Eagle Pass Mayor-elect; Veronica Aranda, Vita Chair; Larry Martin, IBC Bank Senior Vice President; Jose Aranda, County Judge; Rudy Benavidez, County Commissioner; Roberto Gonzalez, Futuro Communities Board member and Leodoro Martinez, Middle Rio Grande Development Council Director.

Trevino and The Laredo Family Economic Success Coalition hosted a party to thank volunteers for their hard work this filing season. The volunteer recognition party was held May 7 at the Coyote Creek Restaurant in Laredo.

VITA Chair Rogelio Trevino offered his thanks to the volunteers and recognized the coalition members and community leaders for their involvement in the VITA program. Tax Consultant **Juan Carrizales** thanked everyone for their continued support of the VITA program and the great service they provide to their community. The volunteers prepared 1,893 returns that brought in \$3.8 million in total refunds for the Laredo community.

VITA Chair Veronica Aranda began the opening remarks by thanking the volunteers and the coalition for their hard work. Tax Consultant **Juan Carrizales** thanked the volunteers, coalition members and community leaders for their continued support of the VITA Program. The volunteers prepared 674 returns bringing in \$1.2 million in total refunds to the Eagle Pass community.

Laredo, Texas



Sitting (l-r): Melissa Ortega, VISTA Project Manager; Michelle Salazar, VISTA volunteer; Maria Soliz, Public Library Manager and Myrna Herbst, Workforce Solutions Executive Assistant.

Standing (l-r): Richard Faz, Americorps Volunteer; Juan Vargas, Webb County Economic Development Director; Julie Lara, HEB Public Affairs Social Program Manager; Al Chavez, Laredo FCU Chief Financial Officer; Julio Cruz, Americorps Volunteer; **Tax Consultant Juan Carrizales**; Rafael Torres, Azteca Economic Development CEO; Richard Rodriguez, Martin High School Teacher and Rogelio Trevino, Workforce Solutions Executive Director.

If you have questions on this page, please contact Phyllis Scott at 404-338-8076 or

phyllis.r.scott@irs.gov.

Contact the Webmaster

[Links to Internet sites are provided as a convenience to employees with Internet access. Management determines who is approved for such access.]