

CFEP Chronicles - Tips, tools, and the people of VITA El Paso

Dear volunteer,

As we take a break from all the hard work we would like to THANK YOU for all your time and dedication throughout this tax season. You helped complete over 11,500 returns (including VITA, AARP, ACORN, and Military sites), which resulted in almost 19 million dollars that was returned to El Paso families. We are proud of our success in expanding our program and reaching out to many families who benefit from our services. Any progress we make is due to your ongoing commitment. We hope that you enjoyed your volunteer experience and plan on returning next year. We want to thank you on behalf of the 11,500 El Paso families that you served.

While we begin to plan for next year we would like to keep you updated and involved with the VITA program. This newsletter is a way for us to keep you informed but more importantly it is a place for you to share any stories, ideas, or suggestions about your volunteer experience. We would love to hear from you! Contact Claudia Ortiz at cortiz@epcuah.com with your input. We hope you enjoy this issue.

Coalition for Family Economic Progress



2009 VITA REPORT

Number of returns completed:

El Paso Collaborative:	259
El Paso Com. College Rio Grande:	565
EPCU Affordable Housing:	308
Houchen Community Center:	150
Iglesia San Patricio:	29
Montana Vista Elementary:	123
YMCA Northeast:	1,145
Project Vida:	196
Project Bravo:	46
Rio Vista Community Center:	272
Roving Unit:	91
Sandoval Housing:	155
Santuario San Judas Tadeo:	49
West Texas Credit Union:	460
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo:	658
YWCA Central:	542

TOTAL: 5,048

TOTAL REFUNDS: \$9,025,781

AARP:	3,437
ACORN:	384
Military:	2,632

TOTAL: 11,501

TOTAL REFUNDS: \$18,732,199

Thank you for all your hard work!

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DID YOU KNOW...

- There are almost 12,000 VITA sites around the country
- Almost 3 million returns were completed by VITA volunteers this year
- The total amount of refunds from VITA sites nationwide was \$3,049,445,160

THINK BIG! When you look at the big picture you can see how great an impact your work with the VITA program has on families nationwide.

2009 VOLUNTEER DINNER

CFEP hosted our annual volunteer recognition dinner at Rudy's Bar B-Q on April 30, 2009. We had a great turn-out! Over 100 people attended the event.

Ricardo Soto, Larry Garcia, Luis Caballero, and Linda Austin, the co-chairs of CFEP, took a moment to thank everyone for their hard work and to reflect on the 2009 tax season. "I'd like to thank everyone for making this

year a success, we helped thousands of families with free tax help. Over 700 families that paid last year came to us this year," said Larry Garcia. The co-chairs expressed great satisfaction with the results of the season. They emphasized the importance of all of the time our volunteers committed and how much their efforts have benefited our community at large.

After we enjoyed the bar-b-q, each volunteer in attendance was recognized and presented with certificates of appreciation.

In order to give our volunteers a chance to appreciate one another's dedication, we asked each volunteer to recognize a fellow volunteer by voting for someone who demonstrated outstanding work. **Congratulations to the following volunteers who were recognized by their peers as outstanding volunteers:**

- Juan Armendariz
- Gerry Fleharty
- Luis Nunez
- Mira Rodriguez
- Dale Zeitler

"The event was a success, thank you to all the volunteers who attended" said Larry Garcia. We hope that you enjoyed a time to relax and reflect on your accomplishments!



Volunteer Recognition Dinner 2009 at Rudy's Bar-B-Q

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

-Margaret Mead



Mira Rodriguez receiving a special recognition from fellow volunteers who voted him an outstanding volunteer.

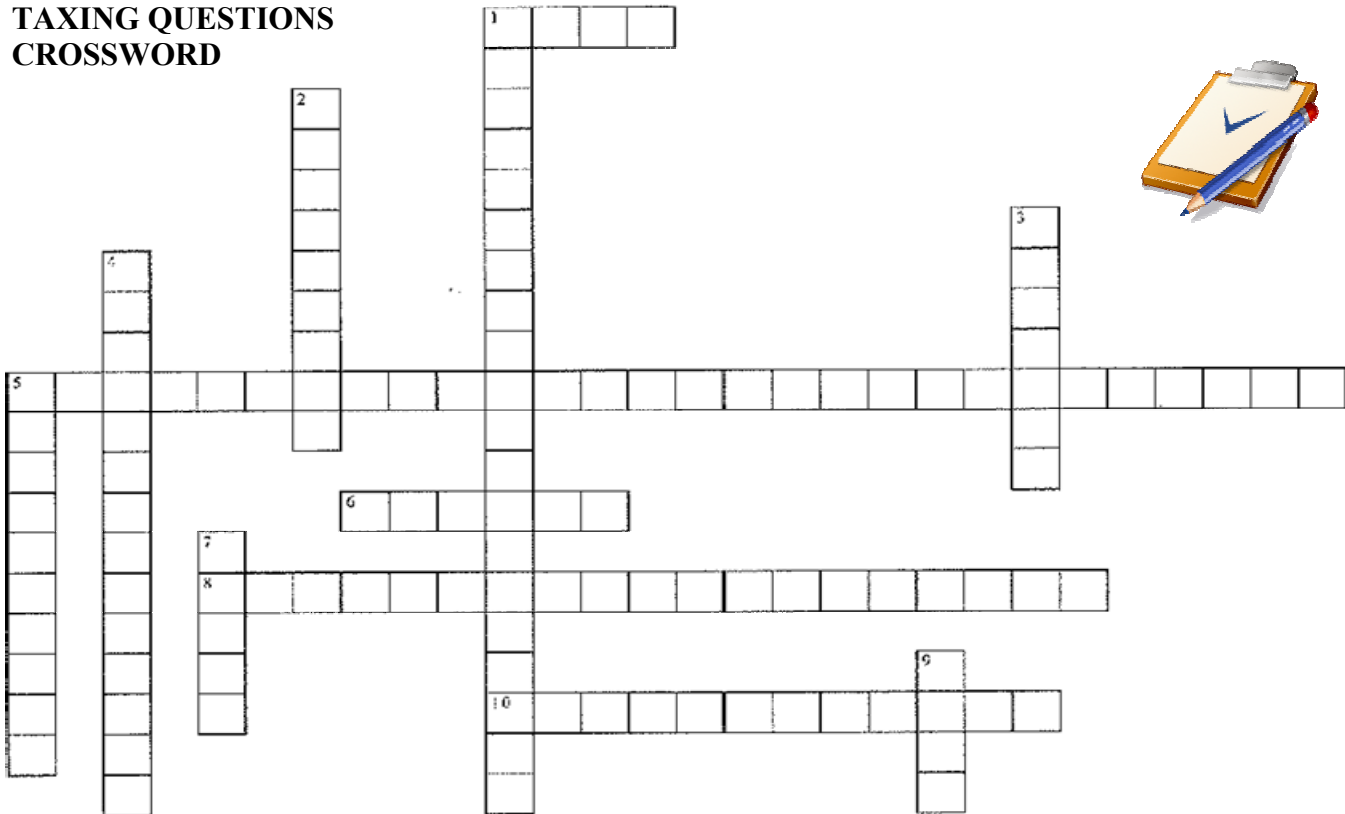


Maria Del Carmen Dominguez receiving her certificates in recognition of all of her hard work and dedication.



Two of our long time volunteers, Jorge Torres and Ismael Guzman, had an opportunity to chat during the dinner.

TAXING QUESTIONS CROSSWORD



DOWN:

- 1 Form 9465
- 2 Interest and dividends
- 3 Tax preparation software
- 4 Credit for children under 17
- 5 The key to the VITA program's success
- 7 Line 7
- 9 Credit for 1st and 2nd year college students

ACROSS:

- 1 Tax identifier for non-social security cardholders
- 5 VITA
- 6 Filing status: no dependents, no spouse
- 8 AGI
- 10 Tax credit for working families with dependents

ANSWERS BELOW

TAX LAW UPDATES

Seven Facts about the New Sales Tax Deduction for Vehicle Purchases

Taxpayers who buy a new car or several other types of motor vehicles this year may be



entitled to a special tax deduction when they file their 2009 federal tax returns next year. "This tax break is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009" said Irma Trevino, IRS Spokeswoman.

Here are seven things you should know about this new deduction:

1. State and local sales taxes paid on up to \$49,500 of the purchase price of qualifying vehicles are deductible.
2. Qualified motor vehicles generally include new (not used) cars, light trucks, motor homes and motorcycles.
3. Purchases must occur after Feb. 16, 2009, and before Jan. 1, 2010.
4. This deduction can be taken regardless of whether or not you itemize other deductions on your tax return.
5. Taxpayers will claim this deduction when filing their 2009 federal income tax return next year.
6. The amount of the deduction is phased out for taxpayers whose modified adjusted gross income is between \$125,000 and \$135,000 for individual filers and between \$250,000 and \$260,000 for joint filers.
7. The deduction may not be taken on 2008 tax returns.

Consumers who are considering buying a new car may find that this tax incentive means there may have never been a better time to buy.



Coalition for Family
Economic Progress
Building Strong Families for El Paso's Future!

El Paso Affordable Housing
6801 Viscount Blvd Ste A
El Paso, TX 79925

Please contact us with any
questions/suggestions at
915-838-9608 or
bkellerman@epcuah.com

Visit our website:
www.freetaxeselpaso.org

BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING

When we ask our volunteers why they volunteer with our program, we get a variety of answers, ranging from feeling like it is a civic duty to enjoying working with numbers. No matter what your reason is for volunteering, the benefits that you will receive from volunteering may be much greater than you expected.

Recent studies have shown the following findings:

- Individuals who volunteer live longer.
- State volunteer rates are strongly connected with the physical health of the states' population.
- Health benefits are shown in volunteers who volunteer 100 hours or more in volunteer activities per year.

- Evidence suggests the possibility that the best way to prevent poor health in the future is to volunteer.
- Volunteering leads to greater life satisfaction and lower rates of depression.
- Older volunteers are most likely to receive greater health benefits from volunteering.

The research has concluded that volunteering provides not only social benefits, but health benefits as well.

Your time volunteering is being well spent! Not only is it benefiting the community, but it is also improving your own health. Encourage someone you know to start benefiting as well!

For more information on the study visit: www.nationalservice.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

The Don't Borrow Trouble Campaign is hosting a Foreclosure Prevention Workshop. Help us spread the word!
When: May 30 8:30-3:30pm
Where: El Dorado High School Library, 12401 Edgemere Blvd.
Call: 915-533-SAVE for more information

Come celebrate Project Bravo's 44th Anniversary! Food and refreshments will be served.
When: May 29 8:00-11:00 am
Where: Memorial Park
1701 N Copia.