

Sample article for organizations to use to reach customers

Customize and provide the following article in your communication vehicles to encourage people who may be interested in becoming volunteers and help people complete their tax returns.

Help your community — become a VITA volunteer!

Are you looking to learn a new skill while helping those in your community? The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, or VITA, is looking for volunteers to help prepare tax returns in communities across the country.

VITA sites provide free income tax preparation for low-to moderate-income taxpayers (generally those who make \$49,000 and below) who need help filing their returns. VITA sites are located in community centers, libraries, schools, shopping malls and other convenient locations and are normally open evenings and weekends.

VITA volunteers come from all walks of life and include professionals, retirees, college and high school students, IRS employees and others who simply want to help taxpayers in their communities. IRS partners with non-profit, community and governmental organizations to provide free tax assistance to more than 3 million taxpayers nationwide.

“Volunteering with VITA is an opportunity to ‘pay it forward.’ Spending a few hours each week with other volunteers is an enjoyable experience. We laugh and work together while providing a valuable service to the community.” —Patricia Macdonald, an IRS employee and VITA assistor for six years.

Not only will you feel a sense of pride by helping people fulfill their tax obligation, but you also will learn new skills that will benefit you outside the VITA program. Becoming a VITA volunteer is easy, and training is offered both online and in a classroom setting.

If you are interested in [becoming a volunteer](#), send an e-mail to the IRS at wi.taxprep.volunteer@irs.gov with your name and contact information, including the city and state where you would like to volunteer, or call 800-906-9887. The IRS will give your contact information to a local community organization that supports VITA in your area.

NOTE TO EDITOR: *Below is a link to IRS.gov information about becoming a volunteer:*

[Volunteering in your community](#) - Organizations in communities across the U.S. are looking for volunteers to help people prepare their tax returns