



VITA Tax Site Success Story!

A young single mom with 3 kids came in to get her taxes prepared. She had not filed taxes last year, so the VITA volunteer prepared both 2013 and 2014 tax returns for her. While having her return filed, she mentioned that she was hoping to get a decent sized tax return, maybe around \$3,000, so she could pay off some bills. She stated that her car needed to be repaired as well but that would have to hold out for another year as she couldn't afford to fix it right now. She talked about how she had recently gotten a new job that paid better that she had been working towards for 3 years, and she was finally able to move her family out of a very small apartment and into a townhome with more space for her family of 4.

After the two years of returns were prepared, this mom ended up receiving a total of \$13,751 in returns, with just over \$8,000 of that coming from the Earned Income Credit. She was in shock at how much she was getting back, and said that she had been working so hard to make life better for her kids and finally feels like she is being rewarded for all of her hard work. She couldn't believe how many bills and financial needs she would be able to take care of now, and talked about finally being able to take her kids on the vacation that they had been asking about for a long time! She said she waited 3 hours to get her return done but would have gladly waited 3 more, and really loved the Lakes & Prairies VITA services!

These are the happy stories that keep our volunteers inspired to continue giving up their evenings to be at our tax site, and a great example of how meaningful the work we are doing is to the people we serve!