



Local Artist Finds “Great Service” at Free Tax Site

Donel E. Keeler

Donel E. Keeler, of the Crow Creek Dakota Nation, is a nationally renowned and award winning artist. Born on the Santee Reservation in northeast Nebraska, Donel has lived much of his life in Omaha, where he currently resides. He heard about the free tax preparation provided by the Omaha Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Coalition through a friend working in social services. After calling 2-1-1 to find the closest of the Coalition’s 11 tax sites in the Omaha metro area, Donel was served at Girls, Inc. in north Omaha.



“I would send my family or my friends...to the Omaha EITC Coalition because of the good work you do.”

Customer -2009

As an SSDI recipient, Donel finds not only work but self-expression through his breathtaking paintings, pencil sketches, and murals. Donel states, “As a small business owner, I used to have a for-profit company do my taxes. They messed me up on more than one occasion, I don’t think they’re as thorough as you guys, they just want to get you in and get you out.” During his visit to the tax site he said it was very crowded, and some people were agitated. However, Donel states, “I remained patient even though I’m not a patient person because I knew it was a free service. I was very appreciative and thankful for this service because I would never have got it done and I might have gotten a penalty.”

Donel loves to talk about the history of Native Americans in the United States and he also knows a great deal about the Native community in Omaha, its resources, places of gathering, and important individuals. Much of his family lives in Omaha, including a son. “My family has been doing their own taxes for years. But I would send my

family or my friends, who are actors and artists, to your services because of the good work you do. I felt very relieved, very happy to have found you guys.”

After filing his taxes back in the spring, later that summer Donel was in need of amendment to his return. Upon arriving at the Coalition’s main office on 36th and Q Street, he received quality individual attention for his tax situation. Donel was able to discuss the benefits of managing one’s small business taxes throughout the year and how to better detail expenses for possible deductions. Of his experience with the Omaha EITC Coalitions free tax preparation services, Donel states, “the preparer treated me very professionally; they were very knowledgeable and helpful. I learned that I should come back next year as well, because it was a great service.”

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We have 11 locations in the Omaha Metro Area!
Call 2-1-1 for Information on a Free Tax Preparation Site Near You!