



Volunteer Finds Joy in Work at Free Tax Preparation Sites

Joni Eitzmann

Joni Eitzmann is a certified volunteer tax preparer for the Omaha Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Coalition. She works as Community Liaison for 1st National Bank in Omaha and has prepared taxes for the Coalition for two years at the Girls Inc. location in north Omaha.



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Volunteer - 2009

She was referred to the Coalition by her employer, who suggested she become involved at a VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) site as part of her work doing community outreach for the bank. Although Joni prepared taxes while fulfilling responsibilities for First National Bank she often came on her own time to volunteer. She prepared over 100 returns in 2009! Her involvement is a testament to Joni’s large heart and generosity of time. Her dedication to service also comes through in the joy she expressed about the work.

Joni had a co-worker who was working part-time at a for-profit tax preparer. “It was such a big difference because I would be so happy about the work and she would end up referring clients to the Coalition,” Joni exclaimed. “She would send clients to us who were right on the borderline of not getting a refund because of having to pay fees,” states Joni.

Becoming a volunteer tax preparer requires a certain commitment to undergo training and IRS certification program. What motivated Joni through the training was, “free education! Its free education! That’s a good deal! The more you know the more valuable you are. Plus you get the joy of helping people. So you’re smarter, you’re helping people, everybody’s happy!”

Joni found great joy in working with people as a volunteer. “I had an overall really great experience with the taxpayers. They for the most part are so thankful not to have to pay hundreds of dollars, especially when that amount can be used for so much for their family. Plus, through volunteering you see that everyone has the same basic needs for them and their families. I helped a young married couple who didn’t have any money; they were just so in love it was a real joy to help them. I asked another couple ‘how are you doing today?’ They said ‘oh I’m blessed, I’m blessed’. I just love that response. Only to find out later they had a sick child. I felt so privileged to help this family in any way I could. They made it worth it to be a volunteer.”

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We are always in need of volunteers!

Call 250-9781 or email omahaeitc@cox.net for information on how to become a volunteer today!