

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!!

Are you interested in learning about how to do taxes, all while helping thousands of low-income families keep millions in tax returns? **The Mission Economic Development Agency (MEDA) invites you to participate as a volunteer in the Plaza Adelante VITA site (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance).** The VITA sites offers free tax assistance to low-income families and connects them to other asset development services such as IDA's microenterprise, credit repair and credit building among others.

This is a great opportunity to help low-income families become more self sufficient and financially stable! Each year, thousands of low-income families lose out on millions of dollars in tax refunds due to improperly filed returns. With guidance from trained volunteers, families are able to take advantage of services designed to help them keep their money and put it into the bank. In 2009, 43 tax assistance sites in San Francisco helped 13,569 low income families keep \$14,136,127 in tax returns. That's close to \$1,042 per family. This is money that stays within the community. In an economic recession, every dollar counts!

MEDA will open a new VITA site offering free tax preparation starting on Saturday February 6th, 2010 from 10am to 4pm at Plaza Adelante, our new resource center for asset development in the Mission District. Plaza Adelante is located at 2301 Mission St @19th St in the city.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR THIS SITE!!! The roles that you can play as a volunteer are:

- Greeter: Welcome people and help them to fill out the intake and interview sheet
- Interpreter: Translate information to the tax preparer
- Tax Preparer: Basic tax filing with TaxWise Software (wages, unemployment, tax credits for low income etc. TRAINING COURSES REQUIRED.)

Bilingual Spanish volunteers are really needed

We required a volunteer commitment of 4 hours/week minimum

Required Days and Hours for Volunteers:

Monday to Friday from 5:30pm to 8:30pm starting February 8th to Thursday April 15th

Saturdays from 10am to 4pm (Feb 6th to April 10th)

Required Training:

-Basic Training: Tax Preparer training is offered online at <http://www.irs.gov/app/vita/>. Training courses will also be held at Golden Gate University, 536 Mission Street, Room 4227, San Francisco, CA. Courses are offered in three sessions: Saturdays January 9th, 16th and 23rd.

-TaxWise Software Training: on Saturdays January 16th and 23rd at room 4216 at Golden Gate University.

For Greeters and Interpreters: Certification training is optional.

Let me know if you are interested or have questions about the trainings, please contact Graciela Reyna / Dairo Romero at dromero@medasf.org, or at 415-282-3334 x25. It is very exciting knowing about the tax law and helping low-income families to get the tax credits. Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you!

About MEDA – MEDA's mission is to achieve economic justice for San Francisco's low- and moderate-income Latino families through asset development. Opened in 1973, MEDA's services include training, coaching, and assistance to small businesses owned by Latinos, minorities, and low-income families; workshops and one-on-one counseling for first-time home buyers and foreclosure intervention services for Latino families; and finally, community leadership and advocacy for effective asset building policy. For more information, please go to <http://www.medasf.org>.

About Plaza Adelante – Plaza Adelante is MEDA's new 21,000 square foot family resource and financial services center. The building will house up to 10 nonprofits, providing services in financial education and planning, computer literacy, childcare, and other family support services to San Francisco's low-income community. For more information, please go to <http://www.plazaadelante.org>.

About Earn it! Keep it! Save it! – is a community project of United Way of the Bay Area. The coalition provides low to moderate income households with free, quality tax return preparation and access to asset building or income support resources such as public benefits, low or no cost bank accounts or financial education. For more information, please go to <http://www.earnitkeepitsaveit.org>.