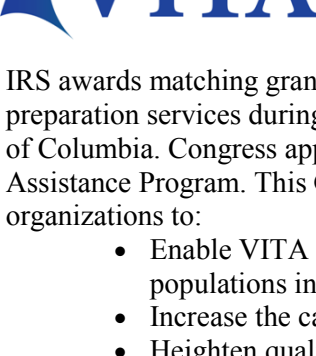




Update: Tax Assistance Program News

LUM Awarded \$17,450 IRS VITA Grant

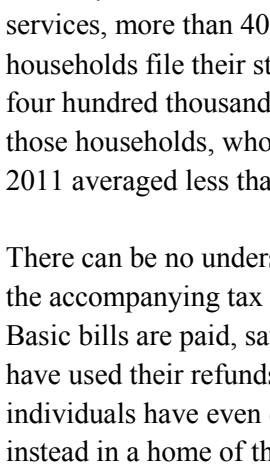


The IRS has awarded LUM a matching grant in the amount of \$17,450 for the 2013 [LUM Tax Assistance Program](#). The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) [Grant Program](#) is an IRS initiative designed to promote and support free tax preparation service for the underserved, in both urban and non-urban locations. Service is targeted to low-to-moderate income individuals, persons with disabilities, the elderly and limited English speaking.

IRS awards matching grants each year to organizations like LUM that offer free tax preparation services during the tax filing season at locations in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Congress appropriates this funding to support the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program. This Grant Program is intended to provide direct funds to organizations to:

- Enable VITA Programs to extend services to underserved populations in hardest-to-reach areas, both urban and non-urban;
- Increase the capacity to file returns electronically;
- Heighten quality control;
- Enhance volunteer training; and
- Significantly improve the accuracy rate of returns prepared at volunteer sites.

LUM Free Tax Assistance Program



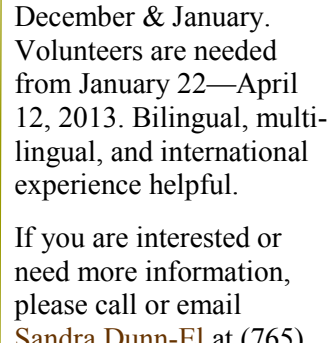
LUM offers free tax help for taxpayers through the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. The [VITA](#) Program generally offers free tax help to people who make \$50,000 or less and need assistance in preparing their own tax returns.

IRS-certified volunteers at LUM provide free basic income tax return preparation to qualified individuals in our community. The LUM Volunteer Income Tax Preparers can also inform taxpayers about special tax credits for which they may qualify such as [Earned Income Tax Credit](#), [Child Tax Credit](#), and [Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled](#). LUM offers free electronic filing and direct deposits when there is a refund.

In 2012, LUM's 10th season of providing free tax preparation services, more than 40 volunteers helped 1,563 low-income households file their state and federal tax returns. Two million four hundred thousand dollars in refunds were provided to those households, whose adjusted gross annual income for 2011 averaged less than \$14,000.

There can be no understating the value of this free service, and the accompanying tax refund, to low income working families. Basic bills are paid, savings accounts are opened, individuals have used their refunds to enroll in IVY Tech and several individuals have even chosen to stop paying rent and invest instead in a home of their own. LUM would not be able to offer this service without the volunteers who last year made this vital LUM program such a success.

[More Details](#)



Tax Preparers Needed

Call-Out for LUM [Volunteer Income Tax Preparers](#) will be announced soon. IRS Training is planned for December & January. Volunteers are needed from January 22—April 12, 2013. Bilingual, multi-lingual, and international experience helpful.

If you are interested or need more information, please call or email [Sandra Dunn-El](#) at (765) 423-2691 or sdunn-el@lafayetteurbanministry.org.



Remember LUM in Your Will



What large or small, to the Lafayette Urban Ministry? Your gift could inspire at-risk youth, fight hunger and homelessness, work for social justice, create a brighter future for working families, or strengthen our community's social safety net.

You would leave a lasting legacy to continue the work you so strongly supported during your lifetime. Please consider including the Lafayette Urban Ministry in your will.

Contact your attorney or financial advisor; please call or email Joe Micon at (765) 423-2691 or jmicon@lafayetteurbanministry.org.

LUM Thanksgiving Celebration

Volunteers and donations are needed for the Lafayette Urban Ministry—Annual Community [Thanksgiving Celebration](#) on Thanksgiving Day at [Central Presbyterian Church](#). We anticipate serving more than 800 people. You may volunteer or contribute food or supplies by clicking [HERE](#).



For more information, please call or email [Heather Hansen](#) at (765) 423-2691 or hhansen@lafayetteurbanministry.org

Please share this e-Newsletter with others as you deem appropriate.

Questions or comments?

E-mail us at lum@lafayetteurbanministry.org or call (765) 423-2691



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