#### **Community Development & Housing**

# Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

**2022 TAX SEASON** 



#### AGENDA

- Introduction to VITA
- VITA Model
- Tax Season Results
- Cost Benefits
- Return on Investment
- Program Totals
- VITA In Action

#### INTRODUCTION

VITA is a nation-wide program

It is managed by the IRS, but implemented by partners such as the City of High Point in collaboration with local volunteers

VITA provides FREE basic tax returns to households with low to moderate income (\$58,000 or less). This is the only eligibility requirement

The City of High Point has hosted a VITA program for 17 years

This years host sites included:
The ARC of High Point,
YWCA High Point, Macedonia
Resource Center, West End
Ministries, High Point Public
Library, GTCC Jamestown,
and GTCC High Point

#### VITA Model

- 2 sites "drop-off" 6 sites "in-person"
- All returns required an intake/interview
- Returns are reviewed with the taxpayer prior to filing
- Sites open 6 days a week Monday-Saturday from January 23-April 18
- Operated on an \$8,450 budget for personnel, supplies, and miscellaneous expenses
- Six out of eight VITA sites are in the core city. The two outside its boundaries are the ARC of High Point on E. Bellevue and GTCC Jamestown
- Site flow included a greeter managing the intake process ⇒ intake/interviewer to ensure correct information is used for the return ⇒ a tax preparer to complete the return ⇒ a quality reviewer for a second set of eyes on all returns



#### Tax Season Results

- Total Volunteers:
  - 8 greeters
  - 2 schedulers
  - 21 tax preparers
  - 8 Site Supervisors
- Total Volunteer Hours: 1913
- Total Tax Preparation Hours: 1432.5
- VITA Hours of Operation: 431
- Federal and State Tax Returns: 941

- Total Federal Refunds Issued: \$717,953
- Average Taxpayer AGI: \$26,255
- Primary or Secondary Taxpayer Age 60+: 695
- Taxpayer retention: 461
- Rural Taxpayers: 128
- Individuals with disabilities: 71
- IRS audit with no findings



#### **Cost Benefits**

\$250 Average cost of a tax return

\$1020 Average taxpayer refund

941 returns filed

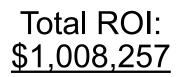
941 tax returns x \$250 = \$235,250

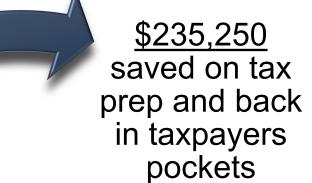
\$235,250 back in taxpayer's pockets

941 tax returns x \$1020 = \$959,820

Up to \$959,820 back into the local economy

# Return On Investment









\$55,054 in state refunds



\$717,953 in federal refunds

#### **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance**

| TY 2006-2021    | Returns | Federals Refunds | EITC           | Average AGI  |
|-----------------|---------|------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Cumulative Data | 8947    | \$ 10,901,636.00 | \$4,255,429.00 | \$ 17,495.00 |
|                 |         |                  |                |              |
|                 |         |                  |                |              |
| TY 2022-2023    | Returns | Federal Refunds  | EITC           | Average AGI  |
| Program Totals  | 941     | \$ 717,661.00    | \$ 245,160.00  | \$ 26,422.51 |

## Program Totals

### VITA IN ACTION

Volunteers @ CNDD



Volunteers @ GTCC Jamestown



Volunteers @ GTCC High Point



# Thank You

Megan Scales

Community Resource Specialist

Community Development & Housing
City of High Point

megan.scales@highpointnc.gov / 336-883-3042

