

Pathfinder Community Connections Thanks Volunteers for Free Tax Preparation Program

Pathfinder Community Connections, the Community Development division of Pathfinder Services held an appreciation dinner for all volunteers that made the organization's free tax preparation program a success. Over 30 people attended the thank you celebration held at Huntington University on Tuesday, April 20th.

At the dinner the top three volunteers who gave over 100 hours of their time in preparing taxes were honored including: Andrew LaMar, Cheari Lee, and Scott Stevens. Also, Huntington University received a plaque for referring University interns to assist in tax preparation.



left to right: Andrew LaMa (Volunteer)r, Linda Bellamy-Sims (Sr. Stakeholder Relationship Tax Consultant-IRS, Cheari Lee (Volunteer), & Scott Stevens (Volunteer)

“We are extremely appreciative of our over 16 volunteers who donated over 685 hours the past four and a half months to make this program a success,” stated Beth Stevens, Family Self Sufficiency Coordinator for Pathfinder Community Connections.



left to right: Karen Batt, Allison Dunten, Linda Hughes, Cheari Lee, Karen Miller, Kayli Briggs, Andrew LaMar, Sarah Bergler, Dwight Brautigam, Matt Harter, Matt Wilcox, Karen Hinshaw, Scott Stevens, Lisa Garrott, Katie Rodgers, Bill Horoho

2010 was the first year for the program and over 465 tax returns were completed with over 97 families qualifying and receiving \$135,800 in Earned Income Tax Credit out of a total of \$427,918 in tax refunds. The Earned Income Tax Credit or EITC, provides tax credits to working adults and families with low or moderate incomes. Money can be used to pay down debts, buy things families need, or can be saved for the future.

“This program would not have been possible without the outstanding support of all our volunteers who gave up countless family hours to assist us in this program,” continued Stevens. “I would like to extend a special thank you to the United Way of Huntington County, and NeighborWorks America for providing the funding to make this program possible,” Stevens concluded.

Volunteer tax preparers in the Pathfinder Community Connections Free Tax Preparation program included: Karen Batt, Sarah Bergler, Dwight Brautigam, Kayli Briggs, Allison Dunten, Lisa Garrott, Jessica Harkless, Matt Harter, Karen Hinshaw, Bill Horoho, Linda Hughes, Andrew LaMar, Cheari Lee, Karen Miller, Scott Stevens, and Matt Wilcox.

To sign up to have your 2010 taxes prepared starting in 2011 or for more information on the Free Tax Preparation program of Pathfinder Community Connections please contact Beth Stevens at (260) 356-0521 or via e-mail at bstevens@pathfinderservices.org.

Pathfinder Community Connections is the community development division of Pathfinder Services and was created in 1997. Pathfinder Community Connections guides potential home buyers through the entire process of pre-purchase education, loan packaging, closing on the home, post purchase counseling, and when in need foreclosure prevention. Pathfinder Community Connections can be found online at www.cchomes.org and has provided over \$10 million in down payment assistance to over 1,400 families since 1997.