

Pathfinder Community Connections Accepting and Training Volunteers for Free Tax Preparation Program

Pathfinder Community Connections, the Community Development division of Pathfinder Services, will again be providing free tax preparation assistance to people with low-to-moderate income this year. Anyone can volunteer for the free tax preparation program as the IRS provides free tax law training and all the materials needed to prepare basic individual income tax returns. Volunteers do not need to have prior tax experience; Pathfinder Community Connections will train all volunteers!

Volunteers are required to take one of each of the following training classes and pass a required test to become certified:

Tax Law: Thursday, December 15th from 5:00 until 8:00 P.M., or Wednesday, January 4th from 5:00 until 8:00 P.M.

Tax Software Training: Friday, January 6th from 9:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. or 4:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M., or Saturday, January 7th from 9:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M.

All trainings will take place at Pathfinder Community Connections, located at 2824 Theater Avenue in Huntington.

The free tax preparation program begins on Monday, January 23rd and runs through Tuesday, April 17th. Volunteers can work as many hours as they like and tentative hours for the program are Monday through Thursday from 9:00 A.M. until 8:00 P.M. and Friday and Saturday from 9:00 A.M. until noon.

To become a volunteer for the Pathfinder Community Connections Free Tax Preparation program please contact Kyle Miller or Beth Stevens at 260-355-2510 or e-mail taxprep@pathfinderservices.org.

2011 was the second year for the program and over 550 tax returns were completed by 20 volunteers with 162 families qualifying and receiving \$211,339 in Earned Income Tax Credit and a total of \$756,103 in tax refunds. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), provides tax credits to working adults and families with low or moderate incomes. Funding for the program comes from NeighborWorks America, United Way of Huntington County and Rural LISC.

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.