



NEWS

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CAP's tax program serves record number of clients in 2008; Volunteers for program to be recognized

Community Action Project of Tulsa County served more than 17,000 clients and returned more than \$24 million to the Tulsa community in a record-breaking season of its Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) program. In 14 years of operation, CAP's EITC program has served 155,469 clients and helped return more than \$197 million to the Tulsa community.

This year, 110 volunteers gave more than 7,000 hours to the innovative program. **CAP will host an appreciation dinner for the volunteers from 6 – 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 6, at the Tulsa Historical Society, 2445 S. Peoria.** Speakers at the event include Mark Graham, CEO of the Tulsa Area United Way and Steven Dow, Executive Director of CAP.

The national economic stimulus package had a large effect on CAP's tax program. Those who draw Social Security, disabled veterans and other retirees who do not usually file taxes were required to file this year to receive the stimulus payment.

CAP's tax program is one of the largest of its kind in the country. It is a model that has been replicated in more than 25 cities throughout the U.S. The program provides free tax preparation and electronic filing services in the Tulsa area for those with annual incomes of \$50,000 or less. Since its inception, the program has experienced a ten-fold increase in the number of clients served.

The program is designed to decrease poverty and expand economic development in Tulsa by helping low-income working families receive the EITC, which is now worth up to \$4,700 to families with two or more children. The program is our nation's largest anti-poverty program, lifting more children out of poverty than all other means-tested government programs combined. The IRS has estimated that up to 25 percent of eligible low-wage workers do not receive the credit, simply because they do not know about it or fail to file properly for it.

CAP's Intercultural Tax Service provides the English as a Second Language (ESL) population of Tulsa and surrounding areas an opportunity to become integrated into the community.

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The EITC program is supported with funding from the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, Bank of Oklahoma, a Community Services Block Grant, and others. For more information, call (918) 382-3200, or visit www.captc.org.

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***Editor's Note:** A volunteer for the EITC program who worked a record 515 hours this year will be available for interview at the volunteer appreciation event. For more information or to set up an interview at the volunteer appreciation, please contact Linda Brock, Communications Specialist, at lbrock@captc.org or 918.382.3241.*