



United Way ADVANCING THE COMMON GOOD

...by helping working individuals and families achieve financial stability.

Creating Assets, Savings and Hope (CA\$H)
of the Greater Capital Region | A United Way Led Coalition

RENSSELAER COUNTY

What is CA\$H

CA\$H is a coalition of community, social, faith-based, educational, business, financial and government partners dedicated to promoting financial stability and long term asset building for individuals and families in the Capital Region. CA\$H leads the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) / AARP tax aide program.

What is VITA?

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) provides free tax preparation that helps filers access the tax credits and refunds they are entitled to. There are free VITA sites in each county across the greater Capital Region. Sites are staffed by volunteers representing United Way, the finance industry, the IRS, social services and others.

United Way's Role

As a leader in bringing community resources together to advance the common good, United Way convenes and oversees the CA\$H Coalition, ensuring that efforts are effectively coordinated across five counties and eligible individuals receive tax assistance and tools for long term financial stability.

2008 Tax Season Results

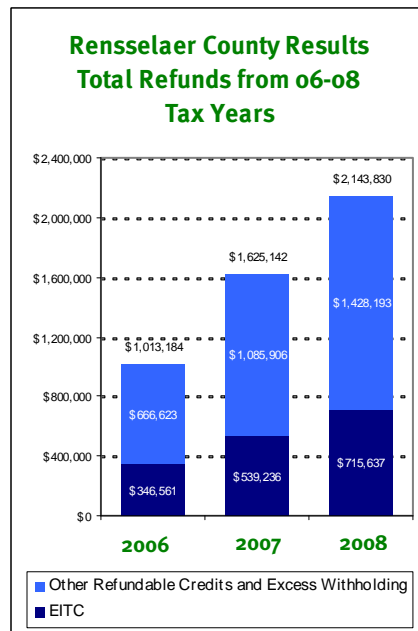
From January to April 2009, CA\$H supported 11 VITA / AARP tax aide sites in Rensselaer county. As a result:

- 1,796 tax returns were completed, resulting in \$2,143,830 returned to Rensselaer County
- 389 returns resulted in filers receiving EITC tax credits
- \$715,637 was returned to the community through EITC
- \$199,752 was returned to the community through child, education and elderly tax credits
- Additional funds were returned to taxpayers through tax education and guidance on accurate filing

CA\$H Goals for 2009

The coalition will build on last year's success and work to

1. Coordinate recruitment and training of volunteers to ensure tax preparation is accurate, efficient and the process returns the most dollars to eligible individuals and families.
2. Expand mobile sites to targeted areas designed to reach every qualifying citizen.
3. Achieve a 10% increase in tax returns filed.
4. Increase service provider participation so families gain access to family support services in addition to tax assistance.
5. Provide additional financial literacy education, so taxpayers can maximize resources and gain skills for long-term financial stability.
6. Include a new educational component to inform tax filers about adverse effects of Refund Anticipation Loans.



More than \$2 million in total tax dollars were returned to the Rensselaer County for reinvestment in the local economy and to help working individuals and families achieve financial stability.



United Way
of the Greater Capital Region



The CA\$H coalition is part of United Way of the Greater Capital Region's commitment to bring people and resources together to achieve measurable and sustainable improvements in the quality of life for our community.