

July 6, 2014



Upcoming Events

07.14.14 CAP Fishing Trip with LA Rod & Reel Club

07.21.14 CAP's Leadership Academy: City Council Meeting

07.26.14 P.A.D.R.E. - UCLA Campus Tour

07.28.14 - 08.03.14 CAP's Northern California College Tour

08.22.14 Career Expo

Quick Links

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Dear Friend,

Most people dread tax season for various reasons. It can be complicated. You don't know if you owe money. You may not have money to pay the IRS. You have to pay to file. It takes too much time and so on and so on.

For the second year in a row, our Finance Director Viri Serrano has managed to change those feelings about tax season. Viri signed up OCCHC/SteppingUP to collaborate with United Way in becoming a partner for their Free Tax Prep Campaign. For the campaign, Viri recruited 20 volunteers who dedicated over 100 hours to help families file their taxes FREE of charge! Our site assisted 118 clients who received over \$135,000 in refunds! That's more than double what we were able to do last year! Clients also saved money by not having to pay for the services. In total, the Free Tax Prep Campaign served over 15,000 households, returning over \$13 million dollars in refund this year.



Yvonne Castro (Recertification Specialist) is a certified VITA volunteer and was one of the many tax preparers who helped families file their income tax returns.

Clients such as Ms. Gonzalez were grateful for the service. A single mother of two, Ms. Gonzalez could not afford to pay the \$325 fee that a tax preparation agency wanted to charge her to file a short form. Ms. Gonzalez heard about OCCHC/SteppingUP's services but was hesitant to file with us because she thought there must be a "catch" to all of this. After much consideration, she made an appointment and soon found out there was no catch. Ms. Gonzalez learned about the Earned Income Tax Credit from our tax preparers and found out that she qualified for the credit. This boosted her tax refund to a total of \$8,164! Ms. Gonzalez left teary-eyed and could not believe that a few weeks ago, she was going to spend over \$300 for a service that she did not have to pay for. She plans to save most of her refund for rainy days.

Tax season is not a time that most people look forward to but Viri is already planning how she can make next year's event even better. "The joy and the money we are saving people is amazing," says Viri.



ATTENTION EMPLOYERS

Is your company in need of an employee who is highly motivated
with the right skills and a great work ethic?

If so, we invite you to join our Career Expo on
Friday, August 22, 2014!



*For more information, please contact Viri Serrano
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to transition extremely low-income families toward greater self-sufficiency by assisting them
with housing and education

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