



## Fighting Poverty through Free Tax Preparation Sites

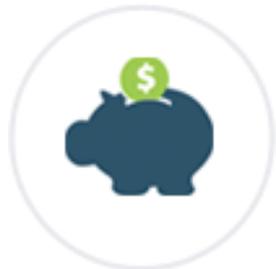
### *Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Sites Create Opportunity*

#### **Transportation and Employment**



After receiving assistance finding part-time employment upon arriving at the Safe Harbor Shelter, a single mother became a **Community Action Committee of Cape Cod & Islands (CACCI)** VITA client. The IRS-certified volunteer prepared her taxes and accessed #EITC and #CTC. She received a substantial refund. She is now able to buy a small car to get herself to work and have the opportunity to look for additional work.

#### **Savings and Credit**



**Quincy Community Action Programs (QCAP)** client Jennifer was able to pay off her debt, increase her credit score and start to save by doing her taxes through the **VITA** program to access the **EITC** and maximize her refund as well as participate in **SaveYourRefund**. She then continued to work with a Financial Coach at **QCAP's Financial Reach Center** and within a year has more than tripled her savings and boosted her credit score by +150 points. Jennifer is now working toward home ownership.

#### **Home Ownership**



One Holyoke family is grateful to the **Valley Opportunity Council (VOC)** VITA site this year. With the help of the IRS certified tax preparation volunteer (and VOC Director of Programs) Melissa, they are able to make the down payment on their first house. This family with 2 young children and 2 working parents who have been saving for some time left smiling. This year, between their refund and the money they saved on the tax prep, they now have enough to finally make that purchase.

#### **Stability for Seniors**



**Community Action Pioneer Valley (CAPV)** VITA site helped a senior woman file her taxes for the past two years. Her only income is Social Security Income and she had no idea she was eligible for the Circuit Breaker tax credit. The CAPV Volunteer preparer not only brought her current with her taxes but through accessing the Circuit Breaker tax credit brought her a return of \$2,000.