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AARP Tax Aide Program a Success!

Significant Increase in Clients Receiving Free Tax Preparation

The AARP Tax Aide Program had another successful season preparing income tax returns for Garrett County residents. The Tax Aide Program set up their offices in the Mary Browning Senior Center in Oakland, beginning February 5th and ending April 15th. During that time, volunteer tax preparers served 1,015 clients with free income tax preparation and financial services, representing a 54% growth over last year, including 565 senior households. There were 299 clients seeking the Stimulus rebate and 244 of those were senior households. The outreach program volunteers prepared returns for 41 taxpayers in Grantsville, of which 15 sought the Stimulus Package rebate. Bad weather forced the cancellation of the first session at Friendsville, however, a total of 9 clients were served, of which 7 sought the rebate.

The AARP Tax Aide team felt having multiple sessions on a regular basis was a positive factor in attracting more participants than in previous years. A significant number of clients were able to file for the earned income tax credit, which those taxpayers may not have otherwise received. Many taxpayers are unaware that they are entitled to this credit.

Twelve volunteers assisted residents from Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia in filing their tax returns. If you are interested in volunteering to prepare tax returns for next year, please contact Roland Bennett at 301-334-4762 or Gerald Gank at 301-334-1323 before November 1, 2008. Free training is provided.