

ing money, the VITA site has a trained financial counselor who can help the taxpayer decide the best use of his/her income tax refund.

No experience is required, as all volunteers are trained and certified by the IRS. Training can either take place in person at Community Action by an IRS trainer, or volunteers can also train at their own pace online.

Also, a certain level of comfort using computers is helpful. Although the best part about volunteering as a tax preparation counselor is the appreciation we receive from the public, I have to say it is also fun to work with the other volunteers as we support, encourage, and learn from each other throughout the tax season. We become like family by April 15!

I encourage anyone who is thinking about helping to call Lisa Swift at Community Action, 301-334-9431, for more details. Please consider joining us as we help residents of Garrett and surrounding West Virginia counties save money and learn how to make the most of their tax refunds.

Sincerely,
Henrietta Lease
Swanton

To the Editor:

Within a few months a valuable, free, local program will begin another year of operation. The free tax preparation service for Garrett County, called VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance), will begin operations on Jan. 25 and run through April 15 of 2016. This service primarily serves the low-income and elderly residents of Garrett County, but higher income residents are also served.

Last tax season, the program worked with only four certified part-time tax counselors and served 264 taxpayers. We are hoping to help many more people this coming tax season. But in order to do this, we must