

## VITA in MONTANA

Services that help hardworking Montana families & communities



Every tax season, the Montana VITA Partnership helps low-income, working families across the state file their taxes for free. MVP staffs VITA sites with IRS-certified volunteers who are dedicated to making sure Montanans can claim all the refunds they are entitled to, while saving them money on tax preparation services.

“Why is free tax preparation important to you and your family? Are you kidding me?? Have you seen what tax preparers charge these days? It's so difficult to understand and complete a return so that you maximize your refund or reduce your taxable income. The VITA program is INVALUABLE! With the VITA program, you not only get your return and electronic filing for free but you get a knowledgeable preparer as well, and maybe, just maybe, a new friend!”

— Jessica Michel a VITA client (and advocate) raising her granddaughter in Helena, Montana

### 2015 Tax Season

 **42\***  
sites

 **181\***  
volunteers

\* of these, 26 sites and 97 volunteers are supported by MCUCD and Montana's credit unions.

In addition ...

 MVP helped  
**1,846**  
Montanans  
file their returns with  
[MyFreeTaxes.com](http://MyFreeTaxes.com)

 **4,903**  
federal returns e-filed

 **\$5.78M**  
in federal refunds

+

 an estimated  
**\$1.26M**  
SAVED  
in tax preparation fees

### refunds from tax credits

**\$2.15M**  
Earned Income Credit  
returns claiming 1,483

**\$826,694**  
Child Tax Credit  
returns claiming 657

**\$112,494**  
Education Credit  
returns claiming 164

### VITA Potential

While these numbers are impressive, so many more Montana families could benefit from VITA services. In 2013, the IRS received **298,141** low-income returns from Montana. Just **18,401** of those returns were filed at free tax-prep sites.