



VOLUNTEERS AT ACCOUNTING AID SOCIETY REACH OUT TO THE COMMUNITY WITH FREE PROFESSIONAL TAX ASSISTANCE!

In the world in which we live today, it's nice to know there are people who have a heart to extend themselves beyond their normal day-to-day activities to help others in the community, and Accounting Aid Society volunteers are doing just that! They increased the financial security of nearly 20,000 households in southeast Michigan in 2014 by offering free tax preparation, and the results have

Volunteer Recruitment - We have a number of volunteers who are retired and senior citizens. They do a great job helping us because they are able to devote a substantial number of volunteer hours to our program. If someone is looking for a skills-based volunteer opportunity and has computer experience they would make a good candidate for our program.

been amazing -- more than \$21 million dollars in state and federal refunds went back into the economy as 632 caring volunteers, with a heart to help others, contributed over 18,600 hours of their free time to help prepare tax returns.

For over forty years, Accounting Aid Society has been providing free tax assistance for low-to-middle income households with their team of volunteers, which saves more than \$5.8 million annually in commercial tax preparation services. "So many people have a hard time making ends meet," stated Audrey J. Harvey, Executive Director and CEO of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation, "and some clients have received refunds of \$3,000 to \$4,000." As a member of the National Association of Black Accountants with a long association with Accounting Aid Society, Audrey felt

Upcoming Volunteer Training - (December/January) Volunteer tax and computer training. We train over 800 volunteers each year to become IRS certified and help us prepare tax returns for over 20,000 households. Volunteer training starts in December 6, 2014



Audrey Harvey

that volunteering was a perfect match for her skills! "I was good with accounting, so it provided a perfect opportunity for me to be invested in the community." She liked the "direct connect to her efforts and the impact in the community."

Tax Sites: Our tax sites are located in Wayne, Oakland, Livingston and Macomb counties. Our sites in Detroit (Focus Hope, Detroit Main Library, NSO Harper Gratiot, Northend Neighborhood Tax Center and Northwest Neighborhood Tax Center) are the sites that greatly need volunteers to help. Many of our volunteers tend to go to our tax sites located in the suburbs but our greatest need is in Detroit.



Volunteer Lakshmi Sundaram agrees! As a bank executive at The PrivateBank, one of the many sponsors of the program, she began volunteering in 1998 after completing three sessions of community service that was required in college. "I wanted to give back to the

community," she stated. "The satisfaction you get from helping someone with something they find difficult is tremendous! It's a win-win for both sides!" She went on to add, "These are not complicated tax returns and volunteers are trained."

Accounting Aid Society has sites throughout Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties, and two sites in Livingston County. Hours are generally from 9am-3pm on Saturdays, but volunteers can schedule the hours that work best for them. "Give whatever time you can give," Ms. Sundaram said, "It's flexible!" There are many openings for the variety of tasks that need to be done from answering phones to doing general office work

to preparing tax returns. They also provide training for volunteers, which includes tax law training and tax software training. "We do taxes all year long, not just

Small Business Program - We are conducting a small business tax pilot program where we are preparing tax returns for small business owners earning up to \$100,000. We also provide one-on-one consultation on recordkeeping techniques, estimated taxes, and other wrap around business services.

at tax time," Ms. Harvey said, "and there are many regular clients."

A Financial Coaching Program is available to train volunteers to coach individuals with financial issues, and a Small Business Program assists small business owners with tax filings and provides recordkeeping techniques. The program is designed for small business owners with \$100,000 or less income.

Volunteering is a "labor of love" of giving time to your community to help make it a more caring environment. "We need you!" Ms. Sundaram said, "Give it a try! You'll see that you'll enjoy it, and you will receive grateful smiles of appreciation!"

Financial Coaching - We also have a financial coaching program where we train coaches to help individuals who may have financial challenges and get them on the right track.

Accounting Aid Society's headquarters is in Detroit's New Center area, just three blocks north of the Fisher Building. For more information about volunteer opportunities call (313) 556-1920 or send an email to volunteer@accountingaidsociety.org. You can also take a look at www.accountingaidsociety.org to see all the good work they are doing in the community.



Lakshmi Sundaram



ACCOUNTING
AID
SOCIETY

7700 Second Avenue, Suite 314
Detroit, MI 48202-2411

313.556.1920

866.653.0873

www.accountingaidsociety.org

