

# GRANITE UNITED WAY

# ASSET BUILDING INITIATIVE



Granite United Way's Asset Building Initiative focuses on helping struggling families become more financially stable through its: **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** and **Financial Capability Development Programs**.

## Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

VITA offers low-to-moderate income families free tax preparation provided by IRS-certified volunteers.

**In the 2013 tax year (2014 filing season), Granite United Way:**

- prepared 2,289 tax returns resulting in federal tax refunds of **\$3,086,269**
- helped families access **\$970,574** through the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- was part of a larger effort by the CA\$H (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope) Coalition of NH in which 136 volunteers prepared more than 4,000 federal tax returns, providing in-kind service with a value of more than **\$107,000**

In the last year thousands of individuals and families claimed more than **\$6.4 million in federal tax refunds**, including more than \$2 million through the EITC.

Last year, the EITC combined with the Child Tax Credit lifted more than **17,000 New Hampshire residents out of poverty**, including more than 9,000 children. In Vermont, that figure was 13,000 residents lifted out of poverty, including 7,000 children.

## Financial Capability Development

Financial education is a critical part of becoming more financially capable, to better manage finances, build credit, get a better job and save for emergencies or for longer-term goals such as college or first-time home ownership.

**Granite United Way offers, as a stand-alone or in partnership with other organizations:**

- financial education classes, in community settings or in the workplace
- training for social service providers to help them assist their clients/families with money management
- mentoring opportunities to make a difference in the life of a struggling family

## Get involved with VITA and Asset Building

Consider becoming a **Tax Preparation Volunteer** during tax season or help Granite United Way connect with other community partners to collaborate on this critical initiative year round!

Contact **Cary Gladstone** at 603.224.2595 x223 or [cary.gladstone@graniteuw.org](mailto:cary.gladstone@graniteuw.org).

## Granite United Way operates VITA sites in 7 locations:

- **Manchester** (downtown & on-campus at Southern NH University)
- **Salem**      • **Concord**      • **Franklin**
- **Laconia**      • **Littleton**
- **Upper Valley** (White River Junction & Windsor, VT)

\*more sites available by calling 2-1-1 NH

