



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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\$6,000 Refund to Family in Willits

What would you do with an extra \$6,000?

Every year, there is an enormous amount of money that goes unclaimed by people who don't know they qualify for specific tax refunds. Last year, thanks to volunteer tax preparers at Nuestra Alianza de Willits (NAW), a family of eight received an Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) just shy of \$6,000.

The family was baffled and believed there had been an error in the filing as they were expecting to receive only \$1,000. They were credited \$5,950 by the IRS, thanks to the help they received filing from volunteers at NAW. In fact, NAW brought in more than \$21,000 in EITC in addition to over \$59,000 in other tax refunds. The family was able to buy a vehicle with the extra cash, which was a great relief, according to NAW staff.

"The family came in to show us the actual check they received from the IRS," says Raymundo Perez, director of NAW and volunteer EITC preparer. "They told us they were going to buy a van which they had wanted and needed since they moved to the U.S. They did buy a van and it has been extremely helpful to them and their entire family."

Overall, NAW, which serves a population of around 5,000 people, brought in over \$21,000 in EITC in addition to over \$59,000 in other tax refunds.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) is organized by the IRS and volunteer trainings in Mendocino County are coordinated by United Way of the Wine Country and North Coast Opportunities, Inc (NCO).

There are volunteer sites in Ukiah, Potter Valley, Willits, Mendocino and Fort Bragg, and locations closest to you can be found by calling 2-1-1 or NCO at (707) 462-1954.

This free service, offered in many locations around the county, welcomes anyone who earned less than \$50,000 in the past fiscal year. VITA volunteers are required to prepare for and pass an exam administered by the IRS.

"We would like everyone to know that Nuestra Alianza will be offering this service again this tax season," says Perez, "and we can't wait to help more families."

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer, please visit unitedwaywinecountry.org.

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