

VITA and TCE

If you are good with numbers and math, there is a great opportunity to help in the community. United Way is looking for volunteers for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly program. Volunteers will be preparing tax returns for people in the community. Many community volunteers, as well as students at UW-Oshkosh and Fox Valley Technical College, play a huge role in VITA and TCE.

Who volunteers for VITA and TCE? What skills does someone need? Anyone with a passion to help others is welcome. Volunteers are needed for tax preparation, to register tax payers and to assist with intake and screening. Tax preparer volunteers also need to have good computer skills and a willingness to take an online certification test. All volunteers need to possess good interpersonal skills.

They need to be someone like Kathy Dietz. Kathy is both a VITA and TCE volunteer. She is certified by the IRS for VITA and a certified trainer for TCE. She has been a volunteer at VITA for six years and at TCE for five years. With a computer science, business and accounting background, she has liked numbers and math ever since she was a child because of the influence of her father.

When asked what motivates her to volunteer for VITA, she said, "Taxes can be or are confusing and it is getting harder to understand for most people. Being able to help people and file their taxes has significant payback. We see a lot of the same people year after year and it's nice to be remembered."

Dietz said the best part about VITA and TCE is that it's a high-quality service; it's confidential (code of conduct agreement) and it's free. Some benefits to volunteering at VITA and TCE include online training, testing and certification, on-the-job training for students and the knowledge that you have been able to help someone.

VITA is able to help hundreds of people in the community because of the volunteers who contribute their time and talents. What better way to help the community than by doing what you love. Clearly, VITA has a lot to offer in terms of volunteer services and helping the community.

For more information about how to volunteer for VITA and TCE visit oshkoshunitedway.org or call 920-235-8560.

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