

News Release

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Local tax preparation site wins direct deposit recognition award from the Minnesota Department of Revenue

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Today Minnesota Department of Revenue officials presented the West Central Communities volunteer income tax preparation site with an award for direct depositing 100 percent of the refunds filed at its Elbow Lake location. This was part of a statewide contest among all Minnesota Volunteer Income Tax Preparation (VITA) locations. The volunteer group in Elbow Lake was the only one to reach the 100 percent goal, among 240 sites in the state.

Revenue Commissioner Myron Frans and Assistant Commissioner of Individual Taxes Terri Steenblock presented the award to the West Central Minnesota Communities Action board at its Tuesday night board meeting.

“We are thrilled to see that 100 percent of refunds processed here were direct deposited, resulting in \$56,000 in refunds,” said Commissioner Frans. “These dedicated volunteers serve thousands of Minnesotans who count on this valuable, free service.”

“The mission of West Central Minnesota Communities Action is to assist families escaping poverty and improve the quality of rural life, which this service is helping us achieve. It’s fitting that in the 50th year of community action, these volunteer tax preparation sites secured \$1.25 million in tax refunds for the working poor in west central Minnesota. WCMCA appreciates the assistance from the Minnesota Department of Revenue in accomplishing these goals and for serving as a steadfast partner,” said Steve Nagle, Executive Director at WCMCA.

This year the Department of Revenue asked all free tax preparation sites to encourage direct deposit among their clients. Returns can be electronically filed and refunds can direct deposited into bank accounts and it is the safest, easiest, and fastest way to receive tax refunds.

VITA site volunteers help taxpayers prepare their federal and state income and property tax returns. Those eligible for assistance are senior citizens, disabled citizens, those who speak limited English and individuals with an income of \$52,000 or less.

West Central Communities volunteer income tax preparation sites serve 380 individuals and families each year. This year volunteers processed 1,100 returns, helping taxpayers get over

\$1.2 million in refunds.

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