



## ***Did You Know?***

Q. What is the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)?

A. The earned income credit (EITC) is a tax credit for certain people who work and have low wages. A tax credit usually means more money in your pocket. It reduces the amount of tax you owe. The EITC may also give you a refund.

Q. Who can claim the credit?

A. To claim the EITC on your tax return, you must meet all of the following rules:

- You must have a valid Social Security Number
- You must have earned income from employment or from self-employment.
- Your filing status cannot be married, filing separately.
- You must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien all year, or a non-resident alien married to a U.S. citizen or resident alien and filing a joint return.
- You cannot be a qualifying child of another person.
- If you do not have a qualifying child, you must:
  - Be age 25 but under 65 at the end of the year,
  - Live in the United States for more than half the year, and
  - Not qualify as a dependent of another person

***We can all use some extra money....***

***...but for some it can change lives!***



Heidi has used the free tax preparation service provided by Community Action Partnership of Riverside County for the past three years. By claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit, she has

been able to deposit more into her IDA savings account. Heidi's dream is home ownership. She is well on her way with the help she received from Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) provided by CAP Riverside.

In 2008, over forty volunteers served more than 1,665 hours preparing 1,827 tax returns for low-income families. There were 14 sites throughout Riverside County, which measures 7,243 square miles.

Community Action Partnership of Riverside County thanks United Way and Bank of America for their partnership in support of the VITA program. Because of their generosity, Heidi and many others are able to enjoy a better life.