Tax Help Clinic Helps Families Obtain over $640,000 in Refunds

For the 2021 tax filing year, Just A Start’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program served a total of 318 taxpayers, an increase from 307 last year. The program helped low-income families obtain $643,433 in total refunds, including $146,624 in Earned Income Credit and $63,857 in Education Credits.

Many thanks to our volunteers who made this program a huge success!

Abigail Schneider, Ann Tomsho, Ashley Wong, Bob Landy, Casey Burgholzer, David Cruz, David Tremblay, Heather Reid, Jean F.J. Charlestin, Jennifer Lewis-Forbes, Judith Garber Justin Jiang, Kevin Monahan, Kiran Mirapuri, Laura Shragowitz, Leslie Cohen, Mike Tomsho, Nora Grodzins, Oren Lurie, Pam Endo, Patricia Marti, Paul E Fallon, Peter Katzin Rebekah Lea, Richard Thal, Sarah Millie, Sarah Pasternak, Shoma Moyo, Sophia Campo, Susan Corcoran, Susan Woskie and Xin Zhu.

June Happenings

Just A Start joins Governor at Sanofi’s new headquarters’ ribbon cutting ceremony

Earlier this month, Just A Start’s Director of Education and Training, Miriam Ortiz, joined Governor Charlie Baker, Cambridge Mayor Sumbul Siddiqui and Sanofi’s CEO Paul Hudson, for the grand opening of the company’s new campus at Cambridge Crossing in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Over the past 20 years, Sanofi has contributed to sustainable development of communities. Miriam Ortiz shared
"The support of Just A Start’s Biomedical Careers Program in creating nontraditional avenues for access to this field has a tremendous community impact. Graduates of our program have an average salary increase of $15,000 after graduation. This is economic mobility in action; this is the path to equity. Without partnerships like the one we have with Sanofi this work would not be possible. Their support of our program goes beyond financial. Sanofi hires our graduates, has hosted our student graduations, and consistently has partnered with us to expose students to the possibilities for them and their families in this exciting field."

Greetings from our Executive Director, Carl Nagy-Koechlin:
Happy Juneteenth and Father’s Day!

"One of the reasons I studied urban planning and have devoted my career to community development is that I’ve always been drawn to and interested in cities, towns, communities and any places that people call home. As indicated in my first blog, biking – particularly long distance touring – takes us through the world at a pace that allows us to take the pulse of these places."

Read more from Carl and Josh’s cross-country biking adventure [HERE].

Just A Start In the News

Report: To expand, diversify biotech industry, look beyond the 4-year-degree

Miriam Ortiz, Director of Education and Training, spoke to WBUR’s Yasmin Amer about the future of employment within the biotech industry. While she's happy to see a growing enthusiasm from employers for programs like hers, she said simply placing workers in a job is shortsighted. "Companies are at a pain point," Ortiz said. "They're recognizing that it's in their best interest to invest in this kind of programming." Read the full piece [HERE].
We Are Grateful - April, May and June Funders

- **Cummings Foundation**
- Moses Kimball Fund
- **TJX Companies**
- **Eversource**
- George H. and Jane A. Mifflin Memorial Fund

Thank you to Cummings Foundation and their support of workforce development programs within the Commonwealth. We are grateful for their generous donation of $100,000 to our Biomedical and IT Adult Career training programs.

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Welcoming New Staff to Just A Start

- **Dan Madri**
  Vocational Instructor/Construction Supervisor
- **Anna Cressman**
  Homeownership Programs Coordinator
- **Cynthia Prince**
  Case Management & Counseling Specialist
- **Dan Harris**
  Youth Employment Specialist

**Just A Start is Hiring!**

Join the Just A Start team to make a difference every day in the lives of our residents, students, program participants, and the broader community.
Our mission is to promote equity by creating access to stable housing and building pathways to economic opportunity.

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