

Another Successful Tax–Aide Season

Tax-Aide, a free tax counseling program for the elderly and sponsored by AARP, the IRS and the Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging, Inc., completed another successful year on April 15 under the direction of District Coordinator, Sharon Durandetta.

Thanks to the dedication of the Tax-Aide volunteers, the task and expense of filing federal, state, and local income taxes was less burdensome for individuals age 60 and older in Clearfield County. Thirty-six dedicated volunteers provided a total of 5,896 hours of volunteer time to assist 2,194 individuals with their income tax preparation. Initial results showed that 1,423 state, 1,774 federal income tax, and 439 stimulus package forms were prepared for consumers this year. In addition, the volunteers helped 1,050 consumers with PA Property Tax and Rent Rebate forms.

The Clearfield County Tax-Aide program was started in 1983 as a joint effort between AARP, the IRS, and the Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging, Inc. Through this program, Tax-Aide volunteer counselors provide free assistance to low or moderate-income taxpayers with special attention to those age 60 and older. The program was held at eight sites throughout the county. E-filing was offered at every site and the volunteers were pleased to be able to e-file over 1,420 returns this year.

Alice Pollock, Program Operations Specialist at the Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging, stated, “I cannot say enough about the dedication of the volunteers. They are what make this program possible.” The volunteers spend about a month studying and preparing for the tax season. They take their responsibilities seriously and have made house calls for shut-ins. The Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging and AARP would like to salute these volunteers who dedicated the past three months to providing this very special program to citizens of Clearfield County.

Although the season is officially over, they continue to work to improve their program for future years. They are working to recruit new volunteer staff members for next year. If you are interested in becoming a Tax–Aide volunteer or learning more about the program, contact Alice Pollock at the Clearfield County Area Agency on Aging, Inc at 765-2696 or 1-800-225-8571.