

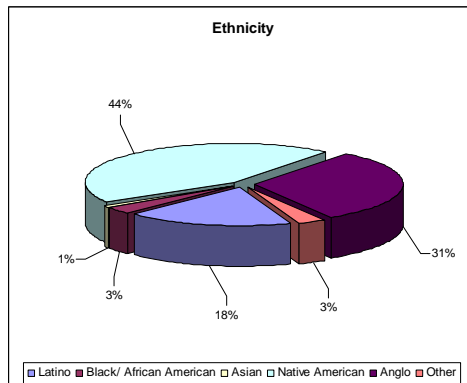
VITA Program (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance)

The VITA Program is a volunteer driven effort, managed by United Way of Northern Arizona. IRS certified volunteers provide free tax services to community members making less than \$42,000. Community members like you volunteer to warmly welcome clients to our services, match clients with the appropriate level of help and train to prepare taxes.

In 2009 tax season more than \$1.7 million income tax dollars were return to 1,400 families and individuals living with little to no resources. Bringing 1.7 million dollars back into our community is similar to the creation of 65 median wage jobs.

The majority of our clients were served at Coconino High School serving 557, followed by Coconino Community College serving 83. Nearly half (43%) of the families and individuals served live at or below the federal poverty line. The average adjusted gross income for our families and individuals was \$18,293, with the potential to claim \$4,824 Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The average family saw a return of \$1,400. The typical taxpayer's refund was equivalent to approximately 3 additional paychecks. Along with their income tax return they keep money in their pocket by not paying for tax preparation services. This savings can be anywhere from \$150-\$300.

Clients self identified as 44% Native American, 31% Caucasian, 18% Hispanic and 7% other.



Our clients are able to better care for their families due to the income tax returned to them. The majority of our clients served planned to use there refunds to pay bills, build savings and purchase necessities.

