Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA) offers free tax help

Jackson Community College accounting students volunteered with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA), offering free tax return preparation available through the Community Action Agency of Jackson, Lenawee and Hillsdale counties.

The VITA program offered free tax help to low- to moderate-income (generally, $49,000 and below) people who cannot prepare their own tax returns. In Jackson, Hillsdale and Lenawee counties, VITA volunteers have helped prepare 5,477 returns, up 27.5 percent from last year.

In addition to free tax return preparation assistance, most sites also offered free electronic filing (e-filing). Assistance is available for federal, state and city tax returns, as well as forms for the Earned Income Tax Credit, Home Heating Credit, Homestead Property Tax Credit, or the Child Tax Credit.