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Helping Low-income TaxPayers get refunds and credits from the U.S. Treasury:  
A request for City Assistance

Shahid Mujtaba  
VITA Milpitas Community Library  
March 28, 2007

The VITA<sup>1</sup> Milpitas Community Library helps low income, elderly, disabled and limited English speaking Tax Payers prepare and file their taxes accurately at no cost, and get the credits for which they qualify. The site operates in the Community room of the Milpitas Community Library next to Milpitas City Hall and serves clients on Saturdays 10:00 am to 2:00 pm from February 3, 2007 through April 14, 2007.

Service is provided by unpaid IRS-trained and certified volunteers. Some materials and supplies, such as laptops, printers, forms and paper are provided by the IRS. Some volunteers bring their own personal laptops. Additional wireless laptops and other equipment from a technology grant from HP to Friends of Bolivia, Inc increased our capacity, and compensated for reduced number of laptops provided by the IRS.

Of the 30 or so sites in Santa Clara County, the VITA Milpitas Community Library site is unique in pushing to accomplish the goal of 100% electronically filed returns. We use an encrypted wireless LAN set up every week supporting a central database with shared network printing. Since networking is outside the scope of IRS support, the technology support is provided by technically proficient volunteers. We purchase hardware components and supplies at office supply stores. Two new capabilities this year include connecting the Wireless LAN to the internet through a wireless connection, and continuously displaying PowerPoint slides for waiting clients. The addition of RAM memory to two laptops enabled one to be configured as a Windows 2003 Server.

The VITA Milpitas Community Library requests assistance from the City of Milpitas to cover all or some of such out of pocket expenses. The expenditures for items were as follows:

	Quantity	Unit Cost	Cost
Wireless Router	1	\$100.00	\$100.00
Staplers	10	\$11.00	\$110.00
PC Ram Cards	2	\$120.00	\$240.00
		Sub Total	\$450.00
		Sales Tax	\$40.00
		Total	\$490.00

The site successfully e-filed 136 Federal returns and 136 State returns this year in 7 weeks, compared to 95 Federal and 95 State returns in 7 weeks last year. With your kind permission, the detailed numbers of the accomplishments of this site for this year will be presented to you and other City Council members during a future City Council meeting.

<sup>1</sup> VITA stands for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, a program of the Internal Revenue Service supports more than 7000 sites to help low-income, limited English speaking, disabled, and elderly prepare and file income taxes. Each site runs in partnership with a local organization or National Organization.