

Learning with Public Purpose The Elderly and Earned Tax Credit St. Helena Parish, LA

Many of the eligible elderly and low income citizens in St. Helena Parish, LA have missed an opportunity to access the earned income tax credit because of lack of information. This year through research and study, the students at St. Helena Central High School will provide a community service to the elderly and other low-income individuals by offering free tax preparation services in order to ensure that they receive credit for their earned income.



Essential Question

How can the elderly and other low-income members of the community get their earned income credit and stimulate the economy?



Introduction

Jolonda Burton, a 10th grade student at St. Helena Central High School, is one of the students working on a project with the theme “helping those who have helped.” Jolonda and her classmates are energized with the thought of providing a community service that will make a difference by assisting the elderly and low income individuals to access money that they are entitled to by preparing their taxes. Their teacher Adolph Holbrook taught them financial management by placing them in the hypothetical role of an adult earning a living in the community. This experience and their study of the new tax laws gave them the impetus to share this with others in their community. They hope that it will stimulate the economy in their community. They know that when money is spent in their community more taxes are provided to their school system.

Project Goal

- Solicit the support of churches and other organizations to implement the project.
- Identify an accountant to work with the Financial Math Class on new tax changes for 2005.
- Identify tax preparation sites in the community to prepare taxes for the elderly and other low income individuals in the community.
- Advertise free tax preparation sites for providing the services.
- Purchase software to use in tax preparation/

Implementation

The Financial Math class has practiced using the software and has completed their tax forms for the year both real and fake for the purpose of extra practice. Adolph Holbrook, the math teacher taught the class the skills necessary to implement this project. Students are preparing to set up the free tax stations at strategic points in the community. A local accountant has agreed to come to the class and talk to the students about tax preparation and the new tax guidelines. Also, he will be a resource for the class to complete this project. Students in Mr. Holbrook’s financial math classes have completed their taxes and helped their family members and are ready to open their tax free stations on March 27, 2006.