



Share the Blessing- 2009

Life Transforming Ministries(LTM), in conjunction with the **Internal Revenue Service**, the **United Way of Chester County Financial Stability Partnership**, the **County of Chester**, **Vanguard** and site partners **Phoenixville Area Community Services (PACS)**, **The House of Original Dreams (HOOD)** and **The Exton Mall**, is pleased to report the results of the **Share the Blessing Free Tax Preparation** program for tax year 2008; serving Chester county with sites in Coatesville, Phoenixville and West Chester. This is the **5th year** LTM has partnered with local churches and others to offer this opportunity to the community. *Share the Blessing* is based on the **IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** model with one of the greatest benefits being tax training and certification that the IRS provides interested community members who would like to serve others in a practical way by preparing their federal and state taxes at no charge with user-friendly tax preparation software. This year free assistance was offered to those with low to moderate income levels, including persons with disabilities, limited-English proficiency and older taxpayers who filed Form 1040EZ, Form 1040A, or basic Form 1040 Federal tax returns. Our IRS certified volunteer Tax Assistors also assisted community members in claiming any eligible special credits and deductions.

Volunteers contributed **466** hours through *Share the Blessing* and were able to service over **300** taxpayers with e-filing and preparation of basic income tax returns through the period of February 1st –April 14th, 2009. Volunteer tax preparation hours grew by nearly 50% with a record number of IRS certified tax preparers available to the program. This initiative benefited the local economy by returning approximately **\$420,000** to the pockets of local residents, *an increase of 60%* from last year. Taxpayers taking advantage of *Share the Blessing* also saved an estimated **\$45,000** in preparer fees. *The average household income of those receiving volunteer tax preparation services was \$16,500 while two thirds of the households reported incomes below 150 percent of the poverty rate.* Unable to be measured was the value of relationship, trust and goodwill experienced in each appointment between exceptional volunteers and grateful taxpayers. *Life Transforming Ministries* is proud to have served as a conduit for such generosity and practical service. I look forward to hearing from anyone interested in learning how to get involved with *Share the Blessing*.

Serving Christ and the Community,

Bill Shaw
Executive Director



An initiative of Life Transforming Ministries
www.QuietRevolution.org



Money in
your pocket.
Power in
your hands.

United Way Financial Stability Partnership of Chester County