

Free Tax Assistance and Preparation

submitted by: Carmen Brown, Economic Self-Sufficiency Specialist

As tax season approaches, so do several tax agencies looking for your business. Many of these agencies promise to get you the most back in your return as legally possible! They may even offer to give you a cash advance on your return within 24-48 hours. You should be aware that these agencies can be very costly, so who ends up benefiting from your "big" tax return, you or them?

If your family grew up similar to most, you rely heavily on a large return for taking care of many big-ticket items. Like new glasses for your family, new transmission, hot water heater or just catching up on bills. You owe it to yourself, and your family, to keep every penny in your return!

The best way to do this is by taking advantage of free tax preparation services. Not only are the services free, but if you use direct deposit, you usually get your return in 10-14 business days. Think of it this way...you've waited a whole year for your return, what's another 2 weeks when your return could be hundreds of dollars more than if you paid a tax preparer and got a quick loan.

The following information was gathered from both the Buffalo Federation Neighborhood Center (BFNC) and CASH Buffalo websites regarding tax filing this year.

CASH Buffalo, sponsored by UWBEC, partners with the BFNC, and other community partners to provide free tax preparation to individuals and families making less than \$54,000 a year.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)-trained volunteers assist taxpayers with filing returns at various tax sites throughout Buffalo. VI-TA is sponsored by the IRS and the goals of the program are to provide tax services free of cost and to make sure that qualifying individuals and families claim their Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

To qualify for the EITC, earned Income or adjusted gross income (AGI) must be less than:

• \$47,747 (\$53,267 married

filing jointly) with three or more qualifying children

- \$44,454 (\$49,974 married filing jointly) with two qualifying children
- \$39,131 (\$44,651 married filing jointly) with one qualifying child
- \$14,820 (\$20,330 married filing jointly) with no qualifying children

Along with the VITA tax sites, CASH also promotes: **MyFreeTaxes.com** – a webbased tool that allows taxpayers earning *less than \$62,000* a year to safely file taxes online, **for free**, from anywhere with internet access.

MyFreeTaxes.com allows

you to file your taxes at your own pace with an ability to start at any time, save your work and come back if needed.

Eligible taxpayers can log on to:

http://www.myfreetaxes.com to take advantage of this service.

Similar to other at-home software programs, the advantage (Continued on page 2)

NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICES

Board of Directors: President: Diane Maracle Vice-President: Belinda Patterson Treasurer: Kevin Blair Secretary: Lisa Marie Anselmi Members: Alisa Myke

Timothy Ecklund Carrie Rittenhouse John Drescher

Administrative Staff:

Executive Director: Michael Martin, Program Assistant: Cheryl Caulder, Financial Director: Jeffrey Kramer, Deputy Director Norine Borkowski

Component Directors: Economic Self -Sufficiency Services Colleen Casali Health & Wellness Star Wheeler Community & Cultural Services Pete Hill Family Services Barbara Clawson-Cole

Newsletter Editor:

George T. Ghosen, Sr.



<u>MOVING/CHANGE</u> <u>OF ADDRESS?</u>

If you are planning on moving or changing your address, please contact NACS so we may update our mailing list. Call (716) 874-2797, ext. 378 or send an email to: gghosen@nacswny.org

(Continued from page 1) to using the **MyFreeTaxes.com** website is that it's **FREE to e*file**

website is that it's **FREE to e*file** both federal and state returns!

The IRS will begin accepting e-filed returns on *January 25th, 2016*. Filers will not need to return to the site to submit their return as long as

they complete it on or after January 25th.

This year, the tollfree **MyFreeTaxes** help line, 1-855-MyTx-Help (1-855-698-9435), has expanded hours to align with high traffic filing times, new times are 9 am - 10 pm, Monday – Saturday.

Resource and Job Fair

Native American Community Services invites you to join us for a community event that will bring together many organizations and businesses from Riverside, Blackrock, and the Westside of Buffalo, New York.

There will be employment opportunities, and information on services available such as: health, law services, college opportunities, entrepreneurship, financial education, and more.

Save the date, and plan to attend!

Tuesday, March 22nd, 2016 11_{am} — 2_{pm}

Native American Community Services 1005 Grant St Buffalo, NY 14207



Comments or questions contact <u>NACS.NEST@amail.com</u> (716) 874-2797 x337 <u>OR</u> x314





1005 Grant Street ● Buffalo, NY 14207-2854 ● (716) 874-4460 ● Fax (716) 874-1874 1522 Main Street ● Niagara Falls, NY 14305 ● (716) 299-0914 ● Fax (716) 299-0903

> www.nacswny.org Michael N. Martin

POSITION AVAILABLE

Equal Opportunity Employer

Posting Date:

January 27, 2016

Position: Type: Hours: Salary: Office:

PREVENTION SPECIALIST FT / Hourly / Non-exempt Non-traditional Up to \$14.90 hourly Erie & Niagara Counties

<u>Summary</u>

Responsible for providing evidence-based prevention curricula for youth and community members as part of an overall strategy that addresses alcohol related issues, among other at-risk subjects. Key roles include outreach, recruitment, and engagement of participants.

<u>Duties / Tasks</u>

- Comfortably and accurately present sensitive material regarding all topics of prevention to both youth and adults
- Perform effectively within a classroom setting
- Deliver comprehensive, evidence-based, medically accurate, age & stage appropriate, education workshops/sessions

*Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Human Services or related
- NYS Teaching Certification +
- Two (2) years experience w/ at-risk youth
- Competency in issues regarding: A/SA, family planning, and reproductive health ++
- Comfortable in front of an audience
- Certified CPR and First Aid training
- Skillful in classroom management
- Computer savvy

- Connect participants with proper services
- Develop referral resources and linkages
- n Collaborate w/ local community resources
- Participate w/ outreach
- Accurately collect and report data
- Complete all paperwork and reports on time
- Knowledge of the local Native American community
- Outgoing, upbeat, able to get things done
- Able to abide by a smoke-free policy
- Capable of lifting at least 25 lbs.
- Clean valid NYS driver's license w/ own transportation and auto liability insurance coverage of 100/300k
- Acceptable outcome of background investigations
- *All hires at the discretion of the Executive Director

For Consideration (REQUIRED): Send Cover AND Resume

Email (only): ccaulder@nacswny.org Subject: PrevSpec2016



1005 Grant Street ● Buffalo, NY 14207-2854 ● (716) 874-4460 ● Fax (716) 874-1874 1522 Main Street ● Niagara Falls, NY 14305 ● (716) 299-0914 ● Fax (716) 299-0903

> www.nacswny.org Michael N. Martin

POSITION AVAILABLE

Equal Opportunity Employer

Posting Date:	January 7, 2016
Position:	<u>Medicaid Service Coordinator</u> / <u>FPC</u>
Type:	Hourly / Full-time (40 hrs) / Non-exempt
Hours:	Non-Traditional (evenings and weekends may apply)
Salary Range:	Start \$15.15 hourly
Office:	Buffalo and Niagara Falls

Summary

This position will provide one-on-one case management support and monitoring to clients with developmental disabilities linking them to a variety of support services. This position may also provide support and service delivery, as needed, to children, families, and Agency staff involved with all aspects of family preservation.

<u>Duties / Tasks</u>

- Coordinate services and appointments
- Develop, implement, and maintain individual service plans
- Interpret and follow laws and regulations of OPWDD

*Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Human Services or related
- One(1) year providing services for developmentally disabled population
- One (1) year providing services to any population
- Ability to maintain composure under difficult situations
- Computer savvy
- Upbeat, able to get things done
- Strong communication skills
- Effective problem solving, organizational, and time management skills

- n Comply with all OPWDD trainings
- Adhere to all legal, ethical, and professional practice standards
- Abide by the policies set by the Agency
- Complete all paperwork on time
- Familiarity with the local Native American community
- Knowledge of community services and linkages
- Able to abide by a smoke-free policy
- Capable of lifting at least 25 lbs.
- Clean valid NYS driver's license w/ own transportation and auto liability insurance of 100/300k
- Acceptable outcome of background investigations
- *All hires at the discretion of the Executive Director

For Consideration:

Send Cover & Resume

Email (only): ccaulder@nacswny.org Subject: MSC2016



1005 Grant Street • Buffalo, NY 14207-2854 • (716) 874-4460 • Fax (716) 874-1874 1522 Main Street • Niagara Falls, NY 14305 • (716) 299-0914 • Fax (716) 299-0903

> www.nacswny.org **Michael N. Martin**

POSITION AVAILABLE

Equal Opportunity Employer

Posting Date: Position:	January 27, 2016 <u>Family Preservation Caseworker</u>
Туре:	Hourly / Full-time (40 hrs) / Non-ex
Hours:	non-Traditional (evenings, weekend
Salary Range:	Up to \$16.59 hourly

(40 hrs) / Non-exempt venings, weekends, on-call) Up to \$16.59 hourly Erie & Niagara

Summary

Office:

The Family Preservation Caseworker will serve as a 'generalist' providing support and service delivery, as needed, to children, families, and Agency staff involved with all facets of family preservation. This position may have a focus on Foster Care support and service delivery or Intensive Home Based casework in Niagara County.

Duties / Tasks

- Traditional Preventive
- f Intensive Home Based (Niagara County)
- Niagara County Parenting training
- **Foster Care support**
- 雷 Medicaid Service Coordination

*Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Human Services or related
- Two (2) years' work experience w/ Child Welfare ٠
- MAPP trained++ •
- Knowledge of ICWA+
- Experienced w/ CONNECTIONS + •
- Computer savvy
- Upbeat, able to get things done
- Strong communication skills
- Effective problem solving, organizational, and time management skills

- Wraparound Services
- Adhere to all legal, ethical, and 1 professional practice standards
- Abide by the policies set by the Agency 龠
- Complete all paperwork on time A
- Familiarity with the local Native American community
- Knowledge of community services and linkages
- Able to abide by a smoke-free policy
- Capable of lifting at least 25 lbs.
- Clean valid NYS driver's license w/ own transportation and auto liability insurance of 100/300k
- Acceptable outcome of background investigations
- *All hires at the discretion of the Executive Director

For Consideration: Send Cover & Resume

Email (only): ccaulder@nacswny.org Subject: FPC2016



1005 Grant Street ● Buffalo, NY 14207-2854 ● (716) 874-4460 ● Fax (716) 874-1874 1522 Main Street ● Niagara Falls, NY 14305 ● (716) 299-0914 ● Fax (716) 299-0903

> www.nacswny.org Michael N. Martin

POSITION AVAILABLE

Equal Opportunity Employer

Posting Date: Position: Type: Hours: Salary: Office:

January 2, 2016 <u>Youth Empowerment Worker</u> FT (forty (40) hours weekly) / Hourly / Non-exempt Non-Traditional (evenings, weekends) Up to \$14.90 hourly

Erie & Niagara Counties

Summary

Responsible for providing evidence-based sexuality education for youth and community members as part of an overall project (<u>S</u>tages of Life Empowerment) that addresses adolescent pregnancy prevention. Key roles include outreach, recruitment, workshop delivery, and engagement of participants. This position may be focused on Niagara County.

Duties / Tasks include:

- Comfortably, confidently, and accurately present sensitive material regarding sexuality, STI & HIV risk reduction, and family planning to both youth and adults
- Deliver comprehensive, evidence-based, medically accurate, age & stage appropriate, sexuality education workshops / sessions
- Maintain best practices

*Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Human Services or related
- Adept in matters concerning family planning, reproductive health, alcohol & substance abuse, and related health issues
- Classroom management skills +
- Two (2) years' work experience w/ at-risk youth
- Certified CPR & First Aid training
- Computer savvy
- Outgoing, upbeat, able to get things done
- Familiarity with the local Native American community

For Consideration:

Send Cover AND Resume Email (only):

ccaulder@nacswny.org

Subject: YEW2016

Closing Date: When filled

- Ensure compliance with all mandates relevant to the SOLE Program
- Adhere to all legal, ethical, and professional practice standards
- Follow through with commitments including meeting established timelines
- Prepare any paperwork and reports on time
- Knowledge of community services and linkages
- Able to abide by a smoke-free policy
- Working knowledge of MS Office
- Capable of lifting at least 25 lbs.
- Clean valid NYS driver's license w/ own transportation & auto insurance 100/300k
- Acceptable outcome of background investigations
- *All hires at the discretion of the Executive Director



1005 Grant Street ● Buffalo, NY 14207-2854 ● (716) 874-4460 ● Fax (716) 874-1874 1522 Main Street ● Niagara Falls, NY 14305 ● (716) 299-0914 ● Fax (716) 299-0903

> www.nacswny.org Michael N. Martin

POSITION AVAILABLE

Equal Opportunity Employer

Posting Date: Position: Type: Salary: January 25, 2016 Assistant Site Coordinator (EXCELL Program) Full-time (40 hours weekly) / hourly / non-exempt \$15.38 hourly

Summary: The 21st Century Community Learning Center Program provides a high quality after-school Program focusing on academic enrichment, positive youth development, and family engagement. Children (grades K through 8) and their families will have opportunities to become involved in culturally relevant activities focusing on academic achievement, experiential learning, health and fitness, as well personal skills enrichment that will include music, fine arts, computer skills, cooking, science, writing, and other activities as indicated by student desire. It is the Program's mission to encourage life-long learning.

Duties / Tasks

- Assist Site Coordinator w/ all aspects of Program
- Understand School Age Child Care (SACC) regulations
- Ensure Program retains SACC licensing
- Supervise all registered children
- * Work in tandem with all appropriate personnel
- Coordinate field trips

*Qualifications:

- Bachelor's in Education / related
- Able to follow Common Core standards
- Up-to-date with current trends relating to early childhood education
- Experience with and knowledge of the local Native American community
- Commitment to performance
- Computer savvy
- Upbeat, able to get things done, can-do attitude
- Solid interpersonal skills
- Working knowledge of MS Office

- Effectively step in for Site Coordinator when unavailable
- Keep accurate attendance records
- Maintain contract compliance
- Complete all paperwork and reports on time
- Effective problem solving, organizational, time management, oral, & written communication skills
- Capable of lifting at least 25 lbs.
- Clean valid NYS driver's license w/ own transportation and auto liability insurance coverage of 100/300k
- Knowledge of local service providers
- Acceptable outcome of background investigations
- Able to successfully perform in a tobacco-free environment
- *All hires at the discretion of the Executive Director

For Consideration: Send Cover & Resume (BOTH)

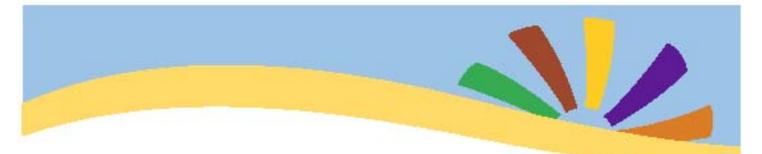
Email (only): ccaulder@nacswny.org Subject: SiteCoord2016



For more information please call 874-2797 ext. 309

Hope to see you there!

NACS' Health & Wellness component is funded by: NYS Office of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Services, NYS Dept. of Health/Division of Family Health, as well as private foundations, businesses, and caring individuals.



You're Invited! Foster Parent Orientation



For anyone who is interested in learning more about becoming a NACS Foster/Adoptive parent!

This will be an informational session explaining how foster care and adoption work and what is required to become a foster/adoptive parent.

February 18th, 2016: 6pm-8pm

Or

February 19th, 2016: 9am-11am

Native American Community Services (NACS) 1005 Grant St Buffalo, NY 14207

To register, call (716) 874-2797 ext. 303.

Enrich the present and transform the future!

Funded by the Office of Children & Family Services and Erie County Department of Social Services



Family Services Celebrates!

submitted by Barbara Clawson-Cole, Director Family Services

Holiday time at NACS for our children and families served through our Foster Care Program and Traditional Preventive Services this year was fantastic! Between the individuals who donated toys and household items to local businesses, caseworkers were happily busy picking up and delivering gifts right up to Christmas Eve!

NACS is especially grateful for the new partnership forged with Lipsitz and Ponterio, LLC, a law firm located at 135 Delaware Ave in Buffalo, that graciously delivered gifts for all our children in the Foster Care Program who range in age from 3 months to 19 years old.

List of Donors

To All Staff Lipsitz and Ponterio, LLC 135 Delaware Ave. Buffalo, NY. 14201

Prish Moran & Staff Sweet_ness7 Café 220 Grant St. & 301 Parkside Ave Buffalo, NY 14213

Adopted 3 families: toys and household items

Nail polish, shampoo, purses, etc.

Gifts for children in Traditional Preventive

Loren Koelle & Members Lifenet Members Northgate Christian Community 10850 Stage Rd. Clarence, NY

Mindy Pham Nails and Pedicures 216 Glendale Place Williamville, NY 14226

(Continued on page 6)

Sweet_ness7 Café located at both 220 Grant St. and 301 Parkside Ave under the ownership of Prish Moran, displayed our SNOWFLAKES that contained the names and gift ideas for over 50 children in our Traditional Preventive Program. Customers and employees responded with fantastic generosity and the gifts poured in to both Cafes!

Mindy Pham, located at 216 Glendale Ave, a nail and pedicure expert, donated lots of nail polish, shampoo and purses that our teens and tweens were just crazy about.

Loren Koelle leads a Lifenet

Gifts for children in Foster Care

Group that meets weekly from Northgate Christian Community located on Harris Hill near Griener Rd. in Clarence. Under Loren's leadership, families with especially high needs were "adopted" and before you knew it, clothes, sheets, toys and all kinds of art supplies were donated to NACS families!

Wow! So many children and families were surprised and grateful for all these fabulous gifts!

We thank you and want you to know your generosity was very much appreciated by our staff and especially by our children! Ms. Trudy Scott 6242 Bridlewood Dr. South E. Amherst 14051 Toys for children in Foster Care

Family Services Families Served

Grand total:

Girls	4	1 year or less
	10	2-5
	15	6-12
	6	13 and older
Total	35	

Boys	6	1 year or less
	8	2-5
	10	6-12
	6	13 and older
Total	30	



The SNOWFLAKES!



Family Services counting the donations!



Presents for the kids!



Free Tax Preparation Locations, Times, & What to Bring

Location & Contact	Days & Times	Additional Services Offered
Walk-In Service BFNC Hope Center Tri-Main Center 2495 Main Street Buffalo, NY 14214 (716) 362-0744	<u>Walk-Ins</u> Mon & Wed: 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm Tues, Thurs, Sat: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Friday: <i>CLOSED</i>	 Sign Language Services (please call) Language Assistance (please call) College Financial Aid Assistance Benefits Assistance Financial Coaching Banking Services Legal Assistance
Walk-In & Appointment Service University of Buffalo Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) 555 Ellicott Street Buffalo, NY 14203	Walk-in Monday, Tues, Thurs: 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm (Self-service Tax Preparation also available) Friday: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Appointments *Call 211 to schedule	Visit EOC's website to learn about educational opportunities! www.eoc.buffalo.edu
Walk-In & Appointment Services First Shiloh Baptist Church 15 Pine Street Buffalo, NY 14204	<u>Walk-ins</u> Tuesday: 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm Wednesday: 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm Saturday: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm <u>Appointments</u> *Call 211 to schedule	Visit First Shiloh Baptist Church's website for more information: www.firstshilohbuffalo.com
<u>Appointments ONLY</u> Matt Urban Hope Center 385 Paderewski Drive Buffalo, NY 14212	Appointments Tuesday: 11:00 am – 5:00 pm *Call (716) 893-7222 ext.306 to schedule	 One-Stop Community Resource Center Free Tax Preparation Urban Diner by Friends of Night People (free meals) Homeless Outreach Services Housing First Program Rapid Rehousing Assistance Program East Hill Boutique (clothing closet) www.urbanctr.org
Walk-In & Appointment Service Riverside Library 820 Tonawanda Street Buffalo NY, 14207 (716) 875-0562	<u>Walk-Ins and Appointments</u> Tuesday: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Visit Riverside's website for additional information www.buffalolib.org/content/library- locations/riverside
Walk-In & Appointment Service Belmont Housing Resources for WNY 1195 Main Street Buffalo, NY 716-884-7791	<u>Walk-Ins</u> Thursday's in Feb: 2:00 pm –7:00 pm	Please visit Belmont's website for additional information! www.belmonthousingwny.org

Free Tax Preparation Locations, Times, & What to Bring

Location & Contact Days & Times Additional Services Offered Walk-ins Walk-In & Appointment Service Please visit Northwest Buffalo Monday: 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm Community Center's website for Wednesday: 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm additional information! Northwest Buffalo Saturday: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm **Community Center** www.neighborhoodhealthcenter.org Appointments Tuesday: 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm 155 Lawn Avenue Thursday: 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Buffalo ,NY *Call 716-876-8108 to schedule Friday: CLOSED Walk-In Walk-In Service Tuesday: 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm Thursday: 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm Delavan-Grider Saturday: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Community Center 877 East Delavan Avenue Buffalo, NY

What to Bring

Items you MUST bring to the VITA site to have your tax return prepared:

- Proof of identification, picture ID, for you and your spouse if filing jointly
- Both spouses must be present to sign required forms if filing jointly
- Social Security Cards for you, your spouse and dependents
- Birth dates for you, your spouse and dependents on the tax return
- A copy of last year's Federal and State returns, if available
- Bank Routing and Account Numbers for Direct Deposit (Voided check)

DOCUMENTATION:

- Wage and earning statement(s) from all employers (Form W-2)
- Unemployment compensation (Form 1099G)
- Retirement benefits (Form 1099R)
- Interest and dividend statements (Forms 1099INT and 1099DIV)
- Self-Employment income and expenses (Forms 1099MISC or manual records)
- Income gain/loss from sale of stocks or bonds (Form 1099B and/or broker's statement)
- Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits (SSA 1099 or RRB 1099)
- Gambling and prize winnings (1099MISC or W-2G)
- Day care expenses and day care provider's address and tax identification number (the provider's Social Security
- number or the provider's business Employer Identification Number)
- Education expenses and student loan interest paid (1098-T and 1098-E)
- Home mortgage interest (Form 1098), charitable contributions, medical expenses and mileage, & real estate taxes paid
- Qualified expenses for the Residential Energy Efficient Property Credit
- Documentation for IRA contributions
- Documentation for medical expense paid from a Health Savings Account (HSA)
- Information for alimony received or paid
- Qualified First-Time Homebuyers Credit, settlement statement including purchase date and price

Native American Community Services of Erie & Niagara Counties, Inc. 1005 Grant Street Buffalo, New York, 14207

Yes, I'd like to help NAG	CS TO CONTINUE IT'S TRADITION OF CARING!!	
Please accept my contribution of: □ \$5 □ \$10 □ \$25 □ \$50 □ \$100 □ Other:	Name	
I'd like to volunteer my time. I can	Address	
	City / State / Zip Code	
	Phone	
	Please add me to your mailing list!	
Please detach and return to:		
<i>Native American Community Services o 1005 Grant Street, Buffalo, New York 14</i>		

FUNDED BY: Erie County Department of Social Services; Erie County Youth Bureau; New York State Office of Children & Family Services; New York State Office of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Services; NYS DOH/Family Health; NYS Education Dept.; NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities; Niagara County

Department of Social Services, Niagara County Office of the Aging; US Department of Labor; United Way of Buffalo & Erie County; U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services/Administration for Native Americans; Service Collaborative of WNY, Inc., as well as businesses, foundations and caring individuals.

