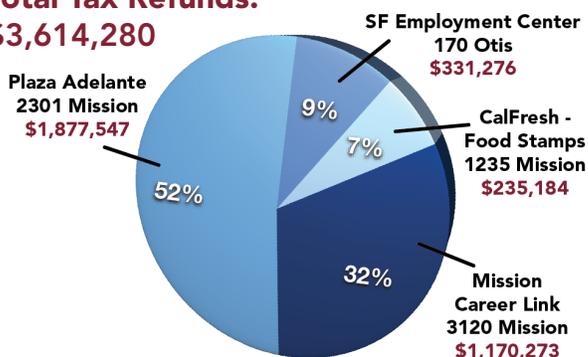


2nd Year of MEDA's Tax Program returns \$3.6 million to low-income San Francisco Residents



Total Tax Refunds:
\$3,614,280



In partnership with the San Francisco Human Services Agency, Bank of the West and United Way of the Bay Area, for a second year MEDA offered families in San Francisco access to free tax return services, benefits assessments, and tax credit qualification. Plaza Adelante served as the program's headquarters and largest site with three additional tax sites at SF Human Services Agency offices throughout San Francisco's low-income neighborhoods.

Tax preparation is an opportunity for clients to make critical decisions about their finances as they often receiving thousands of dollars in returns, and can choose to use this money to pay off debt, increase savings, or multiply benefits.

Continued Page 2

Tax Program Success Story

In March of 2011, Yolanda Dorador came to Plaza Adelante to file her taxes. She earns a living by cleaning houses, and aimed to formally start her own house cleaning business someday. At first, Yolanda was unprepared to file her taxes because she did not have her self employment expenses itemized. She participated in MEDA's Self Employed Tax workshops to learn about profit and loss statements, and what items she could deduct from her tax expenses.

A MEDA Business Consultant helped Yolanda register her business and develop her business plan. Yolanda discovered she was eligible to receive a \$1,500 business startup grant from MEDA which she used to invest in her business. Yolanda was also referred to Mission Asset Fund, a partner organization at Plaza Adelante, to sign up for the Individual Development Account (IDA) matched savings program with the intention of saving more money to invest in her business.

Through MEDA's services, Yolanda has moved from informal self-employment to being a formal business owner, gained valuable financial education skills, and has accessed valuable equity and financial resources to grow her business. She has a plan for its expansion and sustainability, and is well on her way to financial success. And, it all started with a tax return. Yolanda and many other self-employed tax filers who need assistance now can keep a simplified accounting system, understand the tax responsibilities of being self-employed, and learn how to formalize their business and access the types of financing opportunities that Yolanda took advantage of at Plaza Adelante.



2,710 tax returns
39% increase of tax returns from 2010
\$217,000 estimated savings from free tax preparation
78 Volunteers

MEDA Tax Program Report 2011

Continued from page 1

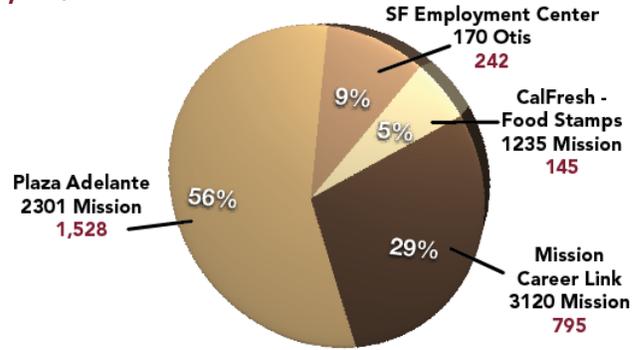
MEDA largest direct service program, our VITA Site Tax Program is a key entry point into MEDA's other programs and services, and those offered at Plaza Adelante to maximize access to opportunities for clients. This way, clients can access resources to help them. **The Success is in the Numbers.**

With the help of dedicated staff and volunteers, MEDA succeeded in **serving 2,710 families** with **total refunds of \$3,614,280** at our four VITA sites. This was a **39% increase in tax returns** from last year with an increase of over **800 tax returns filed**. Clients saved an estimated **\$217,000 in fees** by having their taxes prepared for free by trained volunteers.

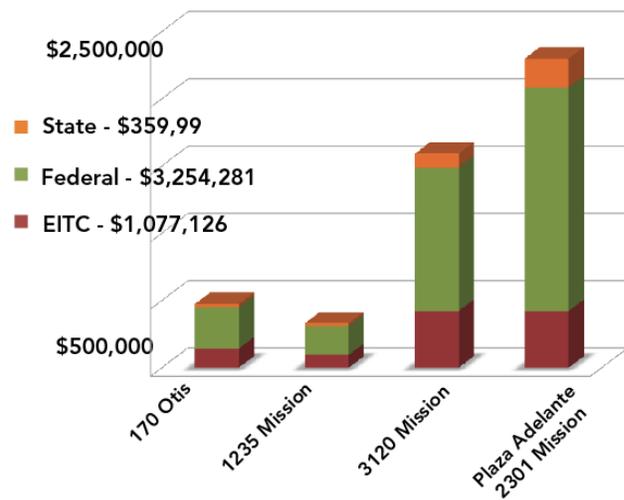
During the 10 week tax season, our sites were open Monday through Saturday for approximately 650 hours, where we met with clients through appointments and on a drop-in basis.

We would like to thank United Way's Earn It! Keep It! Save It! initiative, Bank of the West and the San Francisco Human Services Agency for their financial support of the VITA Site Free Tax Program of 2011- with your help we held a successful 2011 tax season! The VITA Site Free Tax Preparation Program attributes its success to our talented staff and volunteers from banks, partner organizations, and the community.

**Total Tax Returns:
2,710**



Tax Returns by Filings



Application for ITIN number (W7 form) : **238**
 Savings Accounts Mission SF Credit Union: **18**
 Self-employed workshop attendees: **53**
 Clients served increased by **28%**
 Savings from free tax preparation: **\$217,000**

TAX PROGRAM SPONSORS

Thanks to financial support from the City & County of San Francisco Human Services Agency, United Way of the Bay Area and the Bank of the West, MEDA brought in \$3.6 million in tax refunds for low income families.



Luis Granados
Executive Director



Tax Program Staff

Dairo Romero
Director of Programs

Graciela Reyna
Tax Program Lead

Thank You Volunteers for a Successful Tax Season!