



## A VITAL RESOURCE FOR FLORIDA'S TAXPAYERS

In 2016, **285** taxpayers in **9** Florida counties received

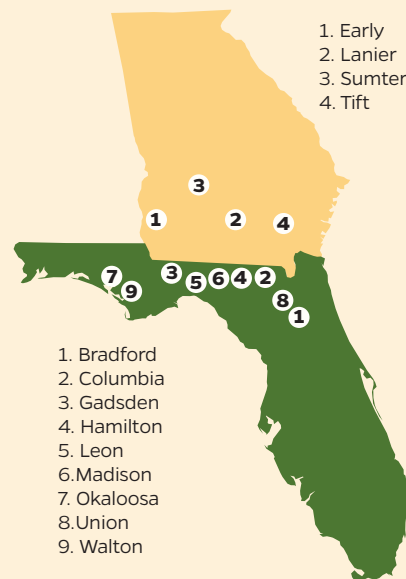
### FREE TAX PREPARATION

from **UF/IFAS VITA** sites.

### Multi-STATE PARTNERSHIP

between UF/IFAS Extension and UGA Extension, the VITA program also prepared

**21 free tax returns** for residents of **4 Georgia counties.**



The **UF/IFAS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** program provides **FREE TAX PREPARATION** to Florida taxpayers.

### SAVES TAXPAYERS MONEY

The average cost of professional income tax preparation help in the Southeastern US is

**\$268.**<sup>1</sup>

The average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) for VITA taxpayers in 2016 was

**\$23,765.**

Taxpayers saved an estimated

**\$268** per return,

for a total savings of

**\$76,380.**

### VOLUNTEER DRIVEN



UF/IFAS-trained financial education volunteers provided

**272** hours to the VITA program during 2016, worth an estimated **\$3,854.**<sup>2</sup>

### REACHES RURAL COMMUNITIES

VITA counseling can be conducted face-to-face, or online via Skype.



In 2016, **75** returns were prepared at the Madison County site; **210** were prepared through a site in Leon County, using Skype to reach taxpayers in rural counties.

### TEACHES FINANCIAL EDUCATION

Each VITA counseling session involves at least **15 minutes** of financial education, including the importance of saving receipts, maintaining a bank account, and establishing a budget.



### HELPS CLIENTS FIND TAX CREDITS

**\$1,200** in Child Care Credit

**\$10,343** in Child Tax Credit

**\$13,671** in Education Credit

**\$71,877**

in Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

### INVESTED IN THE COMMUNITY

UF/IFAS VITA partners with local libraries and financial institutions, and is supported by a gift from the Bank of America.



<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cpapracticeadvisor.com/news/12065684/average-income-tax-preparation-fees-increased-in-2015>

<sup>2</sup> Based on 2016 professional fees of \$14.17/hr ([http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_fl.htm](http://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_fl.htm))