

A FEW
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Tax season is here! Read all about the start of another exciting year
- The CASH Oregon website has undergone a big makeover
- Learn about our newest tax sites

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2008 TAX SEASON BEGINS!

Super Saturday a big success as we kick-off a new season



From left: Camille, Bruce Whiting (Key Bank), Jim, Sheila Holden (PacifiCorp), Katherine Todd (Easter Seals), Kathy Howell (IRS)

On January 31st, CASH Oregon and AARP Tax-Aide opened their doors to the Portland area community for another season of free tax preparation.

The "soft-opening" (Jan. 31st-Feb. 1st) resulted in over 90 returns, with the help of volunteers willing to tackle early-season growing pains.

After a busy first week, the official kick-off to tax season took place on **Super Saturday**. The event, sponsored by Key Bank, gave volunteers and community partners an opportunity to recognize and celebrate another year of providing an invaluable service to members of our community. On hand to celebrate the beginning of CASH Oregon's 4th year in partnering with AARP Tax-Aide for free tax preparation were representatives from the IRS, Easter Seals, Key Bank, Social Venture Partners, and PacifiCorp.

Hard work by our volunteers on

Super Saturday resulted in 134 returns filed at the Lloyd Center Tax-Aide site, where the festivities were held. Even more impressive were the dollar amounts returned to the pockets of taxpayers in just two days of action. Lloyd Center alone helped families and individuals claim \$65,514 in Earned Income Tax Credits, adding to a total of \$180,486 in federal returns, which will be heading into taxpayer's bank accounts in the coming weeks.



A volunteer and happy taxpayer

Nate Swartzendruber, a recent transplant from Illinois, was one especially grateful taxpayer. After

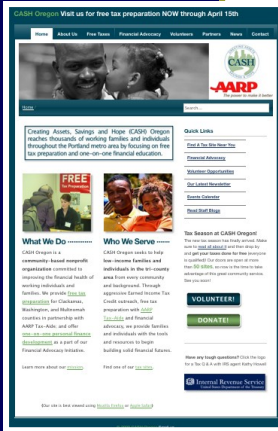
spending months struggling to find work that fits his professional skill set, Nate took a job at New Seasons grocery store, where 60-70 hour weeks are not uncommon for him. He and his fiancé have filed taxes on their own in the past, but Nate was not comfortable doing this in a new state, so he looked up CASH Oregon.

After just 20 minutes in the tax preparation room with one of our volunteers, Nate walked out the door with a smile and proclaimed his refund amount: "715!" Putting on his bike helmet and zipping up his jacket, the young commuter expressed how important a refund of \$715 was to him and his fiancé.

"There are so many things I need this money for. I will definitely be putting some of it toward our moving expenses, but I'm most excited about how much this will help us pay for our upcoming wedding."



CASH Oregon Website 2.0



Our new homepage

CASH Oregon now has a new and improved website thanks to the combined efforts of the staff and volunteer webmaster Larry Bartasavich.

The makeover comes not a moment too soon. As you may have noticed, our old site was lagging behind the tremendous growth here at CASH Oregon. We fixed the problem by taking over day-to-day operations from Larry, who guided us through the transition.

The site boasts a new look

that is especially easy to navigate. You will now find up-to-date information on all of the programs and happenings here posted regularly. We also added organizational details previously unavailable.

We encourage you to check it out soon at www.cashoregon.org!

If you have comments on content or would like us to link to your organization, please contact Thomas or Paul by phone or email at info@cashoregon.org.

NEW FEATURES

- “About us” feature that chronicles our history, mission, and staff
- Links to the AARP Tax-Aide site locator
- Extensive Taxpayer FAQ
- Additional information on how to volunteer
- Financial Advocacy Initiative updates
- Regular blog postings from staff members

Save the date!

The spring Forum Meeting will take place on March 6th at 9AM in the Center for Philanthropy

New Tax Sites Open for 2008 Season

We hope to file at least 20,000 returns this year in the tri-county area. This goal represents an increase of about 4,000 returns compared to our 2007 numbers.

New sites are an essential step in reaching our goal. The table has a breakdown of a few sites opening this year. Find the rest online at www.cashoregon.org.

Site Name	City	Appt?	Languages	Contact
Asian Health and Service Center	Portland	Yes	Chinese, English, Korean	(503) 872-8822
Bienestar	Forest Grove	Yes	English, Spanish	(503) 693-2937 x101
Bienestar	Hillsboro	Yes	English, Spanish	(503) 693-2937 x101
New Columbia Opportunity Center	Portland	Yes	English	(503) 943-5607



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AARP TAX-AIDE

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CASH Oregon is a community based non-profit organization formed to improve the financial health of working individuals and families. We promote federal and state Earned Income Tax Credits, provide free tax preparation in partnership with AARP Tax-Aide, and we are piloting a financial advocacy and education program.

CASH OREGON
Jim Harper, Executive Director
Camille McDaniel, Volunteer Coordinator
Thomas Kost, Financial Advocacy
Paul Ziezulewicz, AmeriCorps*VISTA

AARP TAX-AIDE
Gwen Williams, State Director
Bill Ensign, District Coordinator
Tom Fisher, District Coordinator

Partner Spotlight

REACH Community Development Center

REACH operates a tax site at 1225 SE Belmont St in Portland. Walk-ins welcome on Saturdays from 9am-1pm.

Mission: To provide quality affordable housing and opportunities for individuals, families, and communities to thrive.

Services: Home repair, housing retention, career, resident, financial education
Contact: (503) 231-0682
www.reachcdc.org