



Lives of Local Immigrant Family Changed “Completely”

Martin M. & Rosario R.

Martin and Rosario are a married Latino couple in the early thirties with three children, ages 10, 7, and 5. The couple works at meat packing plants in the Omaha metro area. Martin and Rosario heard about the Omaha Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Coalition’s free tax preparation through an aunt who had used its services at one of eleven locations across the Omaha metro.



“It was such a blessing and a relief to find a place where you can see that the people have love in their hearts to help you.”

Customer - 2009

Upon arrival to the tax site they were anxious to know if the tax preparation was “legal.” When they saw the Anglo-American director and site coordinator they thought to themselves “oh shoot, they only speak English.” Upon being served in Spanish, they could not believe how friendly and helpful we were. Rosario said “often native Spanish speakers act proud and will only speak English to you, even though you know they speak Spanish. It means so much to us to find a place where people are trying so hard to help us and to speak our language. It was such a blessing and a relief to find a place where you can see that the people have love in their hearts to help you.”

When they came to the tax site they needed to file their taxes not only for 2008, but to amend their three previous years. The reason was that Rosario had

been granted her residency, in February, changing her immigration status. Thus, they were now eligible as a Married Filing Jointly couple to claim tax credits like the EITC; credits they had been denied in previous years for filing with an ITIN number. By claiming these back tax credits, the couple left our site expecting around \$17,000 in payments. The couple was impressed by how three different tax preparers worked on their case at the same time as a team. “They attended to us so well, they treated our kids wonderfully while we waited, we were very satisfied and felt very respected,” said Rosario. She added, “none of our family and friends can believe this service was free, they all say ‘you got all of that money back for free!?’”

IRS certified volunteer tax preparers were able to discuss with the couple the importance of savings and investing the money wisely. Rosario had to make several trips in February to Mexico to request and finalize her immigration process. The couple said these trips used up all of their savings. Through these refunds, they were able to not only replenish their savings, but to invest in their family by purchasing a second car. With this asset Rosario is now able to work and take her children to school, doctor appointments, and meetings with special education teachers for their child. “This has completely changed my life, I used to be homebound for lack of transportation; now I can work and attend to my children. This tax site is a good place!”

Omaha EITC Coalition
3605 Q Street Omaha, NE 68107
Phone: 402-250-9781
Fax: 402-734-8887

We have 11 locations in the Omaha Metro Area!
Call 2-1-1 for Information on a Free Tax Preparation Site Near You!