



Rita Gandhi Receives Volunteer of the Year Award

The United Way of Rhode Island and the Internal Revenue Service has recognized Rita Gandhi of Family Resources Community Action (FRCA) for the second year in a row as Volunteer of the Year for her leadership in providing tax preparation services for low-income families through the Volunteer Tax Preparation Assistance (VITA) program. This past year, Rita and her FRCA finance team prepared over 1,100 tax returns that resulted in 1.6 million being returned to families in the local community, over \$600,000 of which was from Earned Income Tax Credits.

In addition, Rita has assisted students from other countries with filing their taxes and has routinely provided consultation to other Community Action Agencies in developing their tax assistance services. Regarding the award, Bea Lanzi, United Way of Rhode Island Director of Labor Community Services noted, “Rita is very deserving. We have a high level of respect for Rita and her team. Her heart is totally in it; she goes above and beyond to help individuals and families.”

FRCA is one of eight Community Action Agencies participating in the statewide tax assistance program. Volunteers play a key role in the success of this program. “Without the scores of volunteers who give selflessly of their time to help eligible Rhode Islanders file for their earned income tax credits, this program would not be possible,” said United Way of Rhode Island President and CEO Anthony Maione. “As a result of their dedication, over the last five years more than \$23 million in tax credits have been returned. Not only does this money help working families pay their bills, but it is plowed back into local businesses, stimulating the local economy. It’s a complete win all the way around.”