

Our progress in 2015

Community Accounting Services is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization created in 1974 to provide pro bono tax, accounting and financial services to low-income residents of Connecticut and small non-profit organizations and to educate the public about the role of a CPA.

In 2013, the CAS board assessed our contribution and decided we were not fulfilling that role. There were 127,000 low-income families in Connecticut and we were serving fewer than 50 of them annually. We did little to promote the image of the CPA as a civic-minded professional and the public was unaware of the assistance we could provide or, indeed, what CPAs did.

We are reversing that. With the help of our sponsor, the Connecticut Society of CPAs, and other nonprofit partners, we're going in the right direction. ***In 2015 we served over 1,500 low-income families and small NFPs.***

- # **Executive Director.** We recruited a new director, Sheryle McMillan, who has hands-on experience in low-income taxes and financial coaching. She was immensely helpful during the VITA tax season and is rebuilding CAS relationships with the NFP community.
- # **Board.** We recruited four new members to our board:
Virginia Hilton CPA, Partner at Balanced Accounting LLC.
Ann Phung CPA, Principal Auditor at the State Auditor's office.
Sarah Stover, Accountant at O'Connor Davies LLP.
Jeffrey Wilson, SVP Marketing and Communications at GE Capital.
- # **VITA program.** Our role in Volunteer Income Tax Assistance evolved. Besides providing site coordinators, we also provide technical assistance, training and advanced case handling. Through VITA, we served over 1,100 low-income families - almost double the number for last year. These tax services can lead to other services such as financial counseling.
- # **Service to nonprofits.** Small NFP organizations have been finding us for help with many aspects of management including qualifications, tax filings and financial problems. These cases come from word-of-mouth and our Web site. From fewer than 10 cases last year, we served 55 cases this year.
- # **Community service.** We continued our public outreach activities with business start-up courses and a start-up textbook. We don't count these participants in our statistics, because they are not low-income, but the activity generates revenue for CAS and recognition for CPAs.
- # **Committee structure.** We formed three board committees and charged them with carrying out functions of CAS: VITA, communications and fund raising. You'll hear more from them in 2016.

To stay informed about CAS activities, visit our Website - www.communityaccountingaid.org, which promotes our services and provides intake for clients and volunteers.