

WADE KAPSZUKIEWICZ

— LUCAS COUNTY TREASURER —
LUCAS COUNTY LAND BANK CHAIRMAN

You & Your Money



FREE TAX PREPARATION

Imagine if the federal government announced that it was investing \$5 million in Lucas County on a major initiative – for a school, a bridge, a highway improvement, a sewer upgrade, or any of a number of other worthy public projects. The community would rightly celebrate, and there would be speeches, ribbon-cuttings, and other grand gestures to mark the occasion.

That's exactly what United Way volunteers did this past year – and every year since 2008 – as part of a program to help lower- and middle-income residents of Lucas, Wood, and Ottawa counties get their taxes done for FREE by trained volunteers and claim all of the federal refunds and credits to which they are entitled.

Not only has the program grown since its inception, it also continues to expand each and every year. The number of people served grew by over 400 from 2013 to 2014. Also, from 2013 to 2014, the amount of federal refund dollars grew by over \$400,000, and the amount of EITC dollars grew by over \$188,000. The citizens who took advantage of the program saved \$670,200 last year in tax preparation fees by using United Way volunteers, and local families used their tax returns to bring hundreds, often thousands of much-needed extra dollars into their household budgets.

If you think you could benefit from this program, please call 2-1-1 and see if the United Way can help put some federal dollars – money to which you are entitled – back into your pocket. If you would like an IRS certified tax preparer to prepare your tax return at one of the 11 locations in Lucas, Wood and Ottawa counties please dial 2-1-1 to schedule an appointment.

If your total household income is under \$60,000 annually you can file your taxes FREE from the comfort of your own home using H&R Block software by going to www.myfreetaxes.com. This software is easy to use and you can dial 1-855-698-9435 to get assistance from an IRS certified volunteer.



As the guardian of your tax dollars, **Lucas County Treasurer Wade Kapszukiewicz** wants to make sure you have all the information you need to make wise decisions about your personal finances. *You & Your Money* is a newsletter that addresses issues of importance to the financial well-being of Lucas County families.