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VITA Report

Kimberly Porter - Executive Director

As the rush of tax season is winding to a close, I am mindful of just how grateful I am to work with such amazing volunteers. I am proud to report that CARE Community Tax Center has been able to process 5,193 state and federal tax returns and refund \$3,638,789 to taxpayers in Northwest Arkansas at no charge. I have had the opportunity to run this VITA program for 15 years in NWA and as each year brings new challenges our volunteers rise to the occasion working diligently to provide the best experience possible. Our current season is no exception. This is a labor of love for those who take on this task. There are countless hours of training, site set up, and tax preparation that takes us away from family as well as other activities. However, I cannot think of a single volunteer that does not willingly show up with a smile on his or her face ready to greet each taxpayer.



I track the financial impact, the number of returns prepared, dollar amount of refunds, and tax prep fees saved by this program but the value of this volunteer time is not something that can be truly measured. The time spent with each taxpayer assisting them with understanding and providing resources and education specific to their tax situation has lasting impact. The opportunity for neighbors to help neighbors is the heart of who we are at CARE. VITA has and always will be at the core of that mission.

As grateful as our volunteers may be for a well-deserved break, I am certain we will miss greeting our neighbors with coffee and snacks for another day of taxes. Huge thanks to all of you that put life on the back burner to make this another successful VITA season. You are a true blessing to CARE and our community. Thanks for being a great NEIGHBOR!

If you still need help with taxes, you can call our office at 479-246-0104 Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm to schedule a tax appointment.

Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger®

Food Drive

The 26th annual Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive is on Saturday, May 12.



This is an opportunity for neighbors to help neighbors. Thank you for supporting our local letter carriers as they work to eradicate hunger in Northwest Arkansas. For more information follow the link.

[Stamp Out Hunger](#)



Fishing Derby

Saturday May 26th join your friends and family for a morning of fishing fun. We will stock catfish in Veterans Park Pond for participants to catch. No pre-registrations required. Participants are encouraged to bring their own fishing supplies; loaner rods will be limited. Prizes awarded to the largest fish in each age group. No fishing license required for participants under 15 years of age. All Arkansas Game and Fish rules and regulations apply. Fishing is open from 8:00 am – 3:00 pm for children under 15 and disabled adults. Lunch will be served from 10:30 am - 2:00 pm. For more information, call

479-246-0104.



Community Mediation

The CARE Community Center Mediation Program facilitates mediation services for the following type of disputes:

- **Neighbor disputes** involving animals, trees, property lines and damage, etc.
- **Community disputes** that involve neighbors
- **Consumer/Merchant disputes** involving claims of less than \$1500
- **Residential landlord/Tenant** over issues like payment of rent, property repairs, etc.
- **Family disputes** between parents and teens, adult children and aging parents, adult siblings, and other disputes within family

CARE Community Center Mediation Program may mediate more complex disputes and makes referrals to local mediators who specialize in a variety of areas.

Contact Us By Phone: (479) 246-0104 or Email: mediation@carecc.org



Cooking with CARE

We provide our neighbors the opportunity to participate in Nutrition Education workshops that teach hands on cooking skills, meal planning, as well as how to shop and prepare healthy meals on a budget. Current English and Spanish offerings:

Check our Just Around the Corner section below for current offerings.

Root Cellar Recipes

From our Friends at [Pack Shack](#)

Cheesy Broccoli & Rice

Ingredients: 1 packet Cheesy Rice & Vegetables (available at the Root Cellar) 2 cans condensed broccoli cheese soup (10.5 oz) 1 bag frozen broccoli (14 oz)

Instructions: Spray two 9"x9" casserole baking dishes with non-stick cooking spray and preheat oven to 350°F. • Bring the Cheesy Rice & Vegetables to a boil with 4 cups of water. • Add the cans of broccoli soup. • Reduce heat to medium, cover and cook for 15 minutes. • Pour into the baking dishes with the broccoli and place in the oven and heat for 15-20 minutes.



CARE's Giving Garden

CARE Community Giving Garden is a way to demonstrate to our neighbors the benefits and joy of gardening while promoting healthy eating. Our Garden will provide fresh vegetables for our Root Cellar Pantry and Cook with CARE programs. Promoting physical activity, increasing food security for our neighbors, and a positive impact on the outcomes are just some of the outcomes that will blossom in our CARE Community Giving Garden.

Volunteers will be needed throughout the growing season to maintain and harvest. Contact us to volunteer. Phone: 479-246-0104

Just Around the Corner

***May 22nd and 29th 10:30 am – 12:30 pm**

Cooking with CARE Series

Spring Picnics - Healthy meals on the go

[Register Now](#)

(CARE Community Center)

***May 26th 8:00 am – 3:00 pm**

Annual Fishing Derby

(Veterans Park)

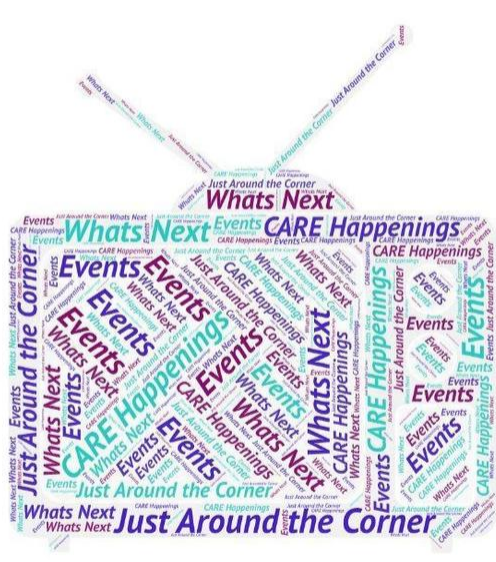
***June 5th and 12th 10:30 am – 12:30 pm**

Cooking with CARE Series

Summer Suppers - Beating the heat with cool summer eats

[Register Now](#)

(CARE Community Center)



Mission

Empowering our neighbors with resources and education leading to personal and family sustainability.

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