

*R.E.G.I. VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

*Reliable, Energetic, Generous, Involved

Katherine Early



Since 2015 our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Free Tax Prep Program has benefited from Katherine's commitment, flexibility and brilliance. In fact, **Katherine is a tax GENIUS!** She truly exemplifies the spirit of the REGI Volunteer of the Year Award.

In addition to being a tax volunteer, Katherine is a shift supervisor which means she provides other volunteers with oversight, expertise and quality review. Even with those responsibilities, this year she completed 57 returns! In her five years of volunteering with OnTrack WNC, Katherine has given an astonishing **520 hours and filed 304 returns.**

Katherine is also generous with her time. Even though Tax Program Coordinator, *Pete Wrublewski*, typically builds wiggle room into our VITA sites' schedule to manage busy times, Katherine routinely packs her schedule with appointments so that we can serve as many people as possible.

During this year's tax season we had a record number of volunteers at 21! They were willing to give more time, but we couldn't possibly fit any more appointments into our existing shifts. **Katherine saved the day!** She volunteered to supervise another shift so we could expand services to Thursday evenings. This increased our capacity by **80 appointments** for low-income households to get their taxes done for free!

Katherine loves the work and her clients! Time and time again, she demonstrates a selfless commitment to help our clients better understand their tax returns, ensure they have claimed every available deduction/credit and maximize their refund (or minimize their taxes due). Katherine uses her incredible tax research skills, her caring spirit, and generosity with her time to make OnTrack WNC's Free Tax Prep Program one of the best in the southeast. We're thrilled to have her on our VITA team!

Congratulations Katherine!