

Pay It Forward

November 26, 2012

Dear <First Name>,

Six years ago, Angela felt like she couldn't get ahead. As a social worker, the single mother of two had never expected to get rich. But she was living paycheck to paycheck—and beginning to give up on her dreams.

Then Angela started getting her taxes done for free at a local Center for Economic Progress (CEP) site. Our volunteers helped her secure a refund, which she used to purchase a computer. The following year, she bought a reliable car. Next we helped her meet other financial goals—like opening a bank account and securing a credit card. With established credit and two years worth of refunds as down payment, Angela then was able to do what once was unimaginable: buy her first home!

Today Angela is pursuing her master's degree. What's more, in her little spare time, she's turned around and become one of CEP's 800 tax preparation volunteers. "I really wanted to give back," she says.

With support from people like you, hard-working individuals like Angela are able to move toward financial stability ... and eventually even "Pay It Forward" through gifts of time and more. Just this past year, the number of CEP clients who contributed hard-earned dollars to support our mission increased by 2,000 percent!

If they can do it, we hope you will too. Won't you "Pay It Forward" by helping us meet our year-end goal of \$20,000? Much is uncertain about our nation's economy in 2013, but as someone who believes in investing in people ... please ... do what you can. Every \$1 results in \$34 returned in economic impact for our clients and their communities. **And, an anonymous foundation will match any new or increased contributions. Your generosity will have extra impact!**

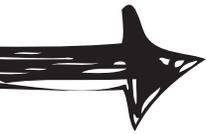
You can give securely online at www.economicprogress.org or by mail using the enclosed envelope by Dec. 31. Thank you for making a difference!

Gratefully yours,



David Marzahl
President & CEO





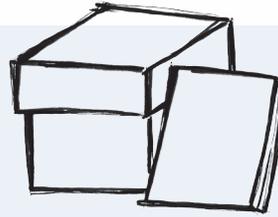
Your generosity + CEP = economic progress

Your gift will ensure CEP has the basic tools needed to serve low-income families in Illinois.



This laptop cost
\$279.99

Volunteers used it to provide free legal services for low-income individuals facing tax disputes. Average value of legal services provided per family: \$8,589.



This box of paper
cost \$41.99

Volunteers used it to print out tax returns for low-income families. Average value of tax preparation fees saved for each client: \$233.

With your support, in 2013...

- 18,000 Federal and State tax returns will be prepared and filed electronically for low-income residents in Illinois.
- CEP will reach the \$500 million mark in tax refunds and credits returned to Illinois families—a half billion dollars!
- We will continue operating 15 tax sites in Chicago, nearby communities and Springfield. For families in more complicated tax situations, we will provide year-round support—from providing telephone assistance through our tax help line to free legal representation through our tax clinic.
- New volunteers will be trained to provide one-on-one financial coaching to working families, reaching 1,500 households.
- Team Progress, our new grassroots street team made up of CEP clients, will promote CEP's volunteer opportunities and services in their communities, contributing their time and energy to

Pay It Forward →

★ 80 cents of every dollar donated goes directly to mission-critical services.

Thank you for supporting our mission!