

West View Savings Bank

“Over 100 Years of Quality Banking”

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NEWSLETTER

March 2009

How to Eliminate, or Reduce, Your PA Income Taxes – Without Going to Jail

A Message From Our President David J. Bursic

Depending on your income and family size, you may qualify for a refund or reduction of your Pennsylvania income tax liability using the State's Tax Forgiveness program.

Who is Eligible for Tax Forgiveness?

You, and your spouse if applicable, are eligible if:

1. You are subject to PA Personal Income Tax; and
2. You are not a dependent on another person's federal tax return; and
3. You meet the eligibility requirements.
4. A dependent child may be eligible if he or she is a dependent on the PA Schedule SP of his or her parents, grandparents, or foster parents.

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In 2007-08 North Hills Community Outreach Assisted 4,399 Families



NHCO Food Pantry Volunteers - Jean Barto, Jim Marshall, Jill Herman and Fay Morgan, Executive Director

North Hills Community Outreach addresses the basic human needs of local individuals and families in poverty, hardship and crisis. The 4,399 families were provided \$1,022,264 in funds, goods and services.

Services include: two food pantries, emergency financial assistance, utility help to restore service or prevent shut-offs, employment services, legal consultations, college scholarships, Faith in Action volunteer care giving, seasonal sharing projects, Family Savings Accounts, shuttle bus for senior transportation, a partnership with Community Auto, and much more. NHCO develops programming in response to unmet community needs, working in cooperation with other organizations to the greatest possible extent. NHCO's service area is all of northern Allegheny County for the majority of programs; some services are offered in additional counties. *Volunteers and contributions are always needed. If you need help or want to help others, visit www.nhco.org or call 412-487-6316.*

How Do I Claim Tax Forgiveness?

1. Complete your PA-40 (Pennsylvania Income Tax Return) up to and including line 9 (Total PA Taxable Income).
2. Next, complete PA Schedule SP (Special Tax Forgiveness). Complete instructions can be found beginning on page 34 of the PA-40 Instruction Booklet.
3. Now, transfer the information from your completed PA Schedule SP onto lines 19a, 19b, 20, and 21 of your PA Income Tax Return to claim your Tax Forgiveness credit.

Where Can I Get Help if I Have Questions?

1. Your local library. Many libraries have tax forms and volunteers available to help you with your tax return.
2. Your local state senator or representative.
3. The Pennsylvania Department of Revenue. The telephone number for the Pittsburgh Office is (412) 565-7540.

Examples of People Who May be Eligible for Tax Forgiveness

1. **Senior Citizens.** Many senior citizens can qualify since their Social Security and pension income is not included in taxable, or eligibility, income. A married couple with only Social Security and pension income, and no other sources of Eligibility Income, could earn up to \$13,000 of interest and dividend income without paying any PA income tax. This same married couple could earn up to \$15,250 of Eligibility Income and still receive a 10% rate of forgiveness on their PA Income Tax return. Potential tax savings: \$399.
2. **Single Parents.** A working single mom (or dad) with three dependent children, and no other sources of Eligibility Income,

could have up to \$35,000 of taxable income and pay no PA income taxes. This person could also have up to \$37,250 of Eligibility Income and still receive a 10% rate of forgiveness on their PA Income Tax return. Potential tax savings: \$1,075.

3. **Married Couples With Children.** A married couple with three dependent children, and no other sources of Eligibility Income, could have up to \$41,500 of taxable income and pay no PA income taxes. This married couple could also have up to \$43,750 of Eligibility Income and still receive a 10% rate of forgiveness on their PA Income Tax return. Potential tax savings: \$1,274.

Can I Claim Tax Forgiveness if I Have Already Filed My 2008 PA Income Tax Return? What About Prior Years?

You can file an amended PA tax return and request a refund if you have over-reported income or did not claim allowable credits or deductions. You must file an amended PA return within three years of the original due date. Complete instructions can be found beginning on page 39 of the PA-40 Instruction Booklet.

Learn More

There are many other circumstances where an individual or married couple can qualify for the PA Tax Forgiveness program. The Bank or I cannot give you specific tax advice. I do encourage you, however, to learn more about the PA Tax Forgiveness program by carefully reading pages 34-38 of the PA-40 Instruction Booklet or by speaking with a qualified tax professional.



SPOTLIGHTING

Pennsylvania's Family Savings Account Program



In conjunction with the North Hills Community Outreach, West View Savings Bank is proud to be a participating Partner Financial Institution in the Pennsylvania Family Savings Account Program.

Program Description:

- The Pennsylvania Family Savings Account (FSA) Program is a matched savings program established as a partnership between the federal government's Assets for Independence (AFI Act), and the Pennsylvania FSA Program.
- Provides grants to community based non-profits to establish programs that provide matched funds to a low-income person's own savings. Based on an approved plan, the matched savings can be used to help finance the purchase of a home, make home repairs, pay for education expenses, purchase a car if needed for self-sufficiency reasons, and start a business. The program provides \$1 to \$1 match for low-income savers.
- The program may match up to \$2,000 of a person's own savings over three years.

Program Purpose:

- To expand opportunities and incentives for moderate to low-income Pennsylvanians by promoting self-sufficiency and encouraging systematic savings and asset development.

- To provide financial literacy training and teach individuals the value of long-term savings.
- Support local community institutions, increase investment and buying power in low-income areas and compliment existing social service programs.

Participant (Saver) Eligibility:

- Pennsylvania residents whose earned income at the time of enrollment is not more than 200% of the official poverty standard set by the Federal Office of Management and Budget, or 80% of area median income, whichever is higher; e.g. a family of four with a household income of \$48,000 or less.
- Agree to save \$40 per month, up to \$2,000, within 36 months.
- Saver must declare and save towards FSA approved goal and must attend a basic financial literacy workshop.
- Saver must attend two asset goal-specific workshops; e.g. homebuyers classes.

Approved Goals:

1. First time purchase of a home.
2. Home repair/ renovation, if the saver owns his or her home.
3. Higher education for self or child; **college or vocational.**
4. Small business start-up.
5. Purchase of a car as primary means of transportation to/from work or school

For additional information, or to request an application, contact Harriet Gibbs, Resource Coordinator at 412-487-6316 Option 2 Ext. 3217 or e-mail hzigibbs@nhco.org. Applications are also available through NHCO's web site www.nhco.org.

Newsletter Contributors:

Jonathan Hoover, Herb Pegher and Pam Greggio, Editor

Special Contributor:

Carolyn Pschirer, North Hills Community Outreach

KID'S KORNER



Find the following hidden words:

Shamrock, harp, Ireland, leprechaun, shillelagh, parade, green, jig, potato, rainbow

X I R I M U O H W F I E O T
 Z W S R K C G T X G E E E F
 Y T U S D Y X O Y S C L I J
 H R G T I B M R H A S H B M
 G A A R R N W O R S H D Y L
 Z C R C E G O E F X I S V E
 A T C P L E B O A E L P K P
 K M V E A T N T N S L T H R
 R M E L N E I A E A E L E E
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 H X E W J I G L A Z H G G U
 G S A M V C M P E I W Y N N



March 8, 2009
 Daylight Savings Time Begins!

From the North Hills Community Outreach Kitchen



Mushroom Crust Quiche

- ¾ lb. fresh mushrooms, chopped
- 5 T. butter, divided
- ½ c. finely crushed saltines (12 crackers)
- ¾ c. sliced green onions with tops
- 8 oz. Monterey Jack cheese, shredded
- 1 c. cottage cheese
- 3 eggs
- ¼ tsp. pepper
- Paprika

Sauté mushrooms in 3 T. butter until limp. Add saltine crumbs. Spread in buttered 9" pie plate and pat down and up sides to form crust.

Sauté onions in 2 T. butter for 1-2 minutes. Spread onions over mushroom crust. Sprinkle shredded cheese over onions.

Blend together cottage cheese, eggs and pepper until smooth.

Carefully pour in pie plate over cheese. Sprinkle with paprika. Bake 30 minutes at 350 degrees.