DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20224

COMMISSIONER

November 20, 2008

Dear Partner,

First, I want to express my personal thanks and appreciation for all your hard work. This year we faced many challenges, from late-enacted legislation to the delivery of millions of economic stimulus payments. Because of your commitment and support, millions of taxpayers received the benefits they deserved.

One of our most successful events this year was our partnership with your organization to promote awareness of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). As you know, the EITC is a refundable credit that helps lift millions of workers above the poverty line. Annually, it puts more than $43 billion in the hands of more than 22 million low wage workers. The current economic situation makes it even more imperative that we reach out to those people who may be newly eligible for this important tax credit.

This year, EITC Awareness Day will take place on January 30, 2009. The event attracts interest from local print and broadcast media, resulting in stories about EITC and free tax preparation options that increase awareness among eligible families and individuals. In 2008, our second year for EITC Awareness Day, nearly 90 local coalitions and partners hosted news conferences to highlight their tax preparation sites and EITC. We are looking to build on that success.

I invite you to join the effort on January 30, 2009, by either hosting a local news conference or by issuing a news release promoting EITC and free tax preparation. If you are interested in participating and would like more information, please contact your local IRS liaison representative.

Like you, we are committed to helping all eligible taxpayers claim this valuable tax credit. EITC Awareness Day is one tool to help spread the word. As always, we appreciate your efforts, and hope that you will participate.

Sincerely,

Douglas H. Shulman