

Intuit Freedom Foundation & RSVA

By Rocky Marchiano

It is becoming more common that major corporations are partnering with non-profit organizations not only to support local causes but to jointly develop long-term national & global sustainability strategies. Since the 2014 ACB Convention, RSVA has been actively engaged with accounting software giant Intuit on a number of projects to benefit the blind & visually-impaired population.

Working together RSVA and Intuit are developing an automated, intuitive accounting software solution based on the Intuit platform which has been customized specifically for use by Randolph-Sheppard Managers. The program will migrate all individual vending stand financial and reporting data in the format utilized by each State Licensing Agency. The software will then transmit the data to the SLA via email based on a reoccurring schedule determined by the Randolph-Sheppard Manager. This automated process will save the Randolph-Sheppard Manager time and insure that all agency required forms are submitted accurately and timely.

TurboTax is Intuit's proprietary individual and corporate tax reporting software. Intuit has adopted several modifications to the TurboTax software which are specific

to Randolph-Sheppard Managers. Those who opt for the Blind/Visually Impaired tax Credit will be prompted through a series of questions that will evaluate various deductions, exemptions, expenses that Randolph-Sheppard Managers are eligible to claim. After these items have been identified TurboTax will then finalize the return and transmit the return to the IRS and state revenue office. These TurboTax changes are due out beginning January, 2016.

Through Intuit's Financial Freedom Foundation RSVA is seeking certification to provide cost free annual tax preparation services for Randolph-Sheppard Vendors utilizing TurboTax. Intuit will provide the TurboTax software, updates, and support free of charge to RSVA and RSVA will in turn offer tax preparation and submission services to Randolph-Sheppard Vendors at no charge. RSVA hopes to have certification by July, 2015.

Finally, Intuit and RSVA are collaborating on a grant-making project to provide national accounting and tax preparation software training to Randolph-Sheppard Vendors through annual Upward Mobility Training. Since this project is in the initial stages, no timeline has been developed for implementation. The Intuit-RSVA strategic partnership affords both organizations and the blind/visually impaired community the opportunity to leverage resources, experience, and tools into a common goal which benefits the sustainability of vital employment initiatives for the blind and visually impaired.