Things were looking up for Robert Truesdale, especially given that he had recently acquired a driving job with a local company, no small feat in a tough economy. One of the requirements for the job, as one can imagine, was a valid RI driver’s license, and this is where the complications began. For after a quick check, Mr. Truesdale was surprised to realize this had already expired. To make matters worse, after a trip to the DMV Mr. Truesdale learned that several years of unfiled taxes had made him ineligible to renew his license.

All of a sudden his new job was in jeopardy—if he couldn’t get his license renewed within a week the company would have no choice but to let him go and hire someone who could start driving immediately.

So, Mr. Truesdale obtained a list of local Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites and began making calls. Unfortunately, site after site gave him the same bad news: “The earliest appointment we have available is in late May.”

For Mr. Truesdale, however, “late May” was far too late.

As Mr. Truesdale neared the bottom of the list his expectations dropped substantially—maybe he would simply be unable to back-file his taxes in time.

The last VITA site he called was at The Capital Good Fund (CGF). He spoke on the phone to a volunteer tax preparer who, much to his surprise, listened to his story and told him to come in that afternoon.

Mr. Truesdale met with CGF’s VITA Site Coordinator, Libby Kimzey, later that day and was able to back-file four years of income taxes on the spot. Although Libby wasn’t able to complete the rest of his returns, she understand the urgency of his situation and got him an appointment later that afternoon with Rhode Island Legal Services—in the office right above CGF’s—to finish his returns from previous years.

By the end of the day Mr. Truesdale had filed all of his taxes and was eligible to renew his driver’s license.

Robert is now happily and gainfully employed at his new driving job and, in his own words, is working again because of the understanding and assistance that Libby and CGF were able to provide him.