

For immediate release

ALPENA ALCONA AREA CREDIT UNION OFFERS FREE INCOME TAX SERVICES

Statewide Program Aims to Help Families Claim Refunds, Credits

Alpena, Mich., January 18, 2010 — With many Michigan residents facing economic woes and struggling to make ends meet, a little extra cash can make a big difference. That's why credit unions have joined forces to promote *Just File It! We'll Help. Free State and Federal Tax Preparation Resources Provided by Credit Unions*, a web-based program that allows families and individuals to file for state and federal tax credits that often go overlooked. This includes the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which can be as high as \$5,600 for low-income, working households.

Over 100 Michigan credit unions, including Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union, are promoting *Just File It!* to their membership. The *Just File it!* program returned over \$10.3 million to individuals and families last year. "Difficult economic times further reinforce the need for a program like *Just File It!*," said AAACU President & CEO Donald J. Mills. "Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union is proud to be a part of the network of credit unions offering *Just File It* to help families pay their monthly bills, move into better housing, invest in education or save for their future."

All that is required to use the *Just File it!* program is a computer, Internet access, a Web browser and a printer. The program uses a free, Web-based software program, posing questions to users and offering assistance via video tutorials. It is offered in both English and Spanish.

Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union and a link to *Just File It!* may be accessed by visiting www.aaacu.com.

The technology backbone of the program was developed by the Legal Aid Society of Orange County, California. The Michigan Credit Union League (MCUL), a statewide credit union trade association, underwrote the cost of developing the state income tax software in conjunction with the Legal Aid Society of Orange County, California, and the Michigan Poverty Law Center.

The Michigan Poverty Law Center is a joint project of Legal Services of South Central Michigan (LSSCM) and the University of Michigan Law School (UMLS). MPLP is funded in part by the Michigan State Bar Foundation (MSBF).

###