

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Lucky Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union Member Wins \$100,000 Grand Prize – by Saving Money



In photo, right to left: Charmain Hanners, Winner of the Save to Win Program's \$100,000 grand prize, grandson Charlie Williams, Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union President and CEO Donald J. Mills, and Ron Hanners.

**Alpena , Michigan**– For Charmain C. Hanners trip to her credit union on Friday, February 11<sup>th</sup> was supposed to be a small errand. Instead, when she walked through the doors of the Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union, what she got was a big prize.

Hanners was revealed as the lucky Grand Prize winner of

\$100,000 in cash for simply saving her money through an innovative, unique program called Save to Win.

"I opened an account at AAACU for my grandson to save for his future. I am also saving for any future grandchildren that I hope to have someday," Hanners said. "I will use a portion of my winnings to help the homeless and battered women. Anytime I have good fortune, I always make it a habit to share with others."

Hanners and her husband Ron have been members of credit unions since 1973, and her father was on the board of a credit union.

"Save to Win is one way credit unions like Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union are rewarding members like Charmain Hanners for making good financial decisions and saving money for their futures," said Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union CEO Donald J. Mills. "At our credit union, we view all our members like our own extended family, and having Charmain chosen as the Grand Prize winner is really exciting for our entire community. Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union is really proud of all our other members who have saved money through Save to Win because at the end of the day, they're all winners with cash in their accounts."

Hanners was randomly selected in a computerized statewide drawing conducted the first week of February. Hanners, who divides her time between St. Joseph, Michigan, and Alpena, is a retired school cafeteria worker who served meals to students.

“Michigan credit unions started this unique program to encourage saving statewide and we’ve seen a great response from credit union members,” said David Adams, CEO of the Michigan Credit Union League & Affiliates. “Credit unions want their members to be financially healthy and are willing to create unique programs like Save to Win, which put their best interests first.”

As of Dec. 31, 2010, 157 members have saved more than \$84,000 at the Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union. Hanners has saved \$1,502.10 since opening her Save to Win account in July 2010.

The goal of Save to Win is to encourage more people to save money and strengthen their financial futures, by making saving fun.

As of Dec. 31, credit unions have helped 16,833 members statewide save more than \$28 million as part of the Save to Win program, according to the Michigan Credit Union League.

Each \$25 deposit into a Save to Win certificate by a credit union member entitles them to one entry into the annual \$100,000 Grand Prize drawing. The Save to Win program also awards smaller monthly cash prizes ranging from \$125 to \$1,000 to winners. In addition, most credit unions also individually award cash prizes to members who sign up for Save to Win, with prizes ranging from credit union to credit union—Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union awards \$300 worth of prizes every month. All savings deposits go into a special CD, generating interest and building savings.

Save to Win launched in 2009 as a collaboration between the Michigan Credit Union League, the [Filene Research Institute](#) and the [Doorways to Dreams Fund](#) (D2D). Designed to appeal to credit union members who rarely save, Save to Win has helped many families save their money instead of spending it on games of chance. A 2009 survey found that 59 percent of participants had spent money on the lottery over the previous six months and that less than half saved money regularly before opening their Save to Win accounts.

[Read more national and Michigan coverage of Save to Win.](#)

*Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union serves members primarily in Alpena, Alcona, Montmorency, and Iosco counties with 8 locations—a main office located in Alpena, with branch offices in Ossineke, Lincoln, Atlanta, a Tiger Branch in Alcona Community Schools, Oscoda and Tawas offices, and an additional branch in Alpena. As of January 31, 2011, Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union provides service to 26,987 members and has total assets equal to \$245,624,840.*

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