

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union Offers Free Income Tax Services

Statewide Program Aims to Help Families Claim Refunds, Credits

Alpena, Michigan, January 6th, 2012—With many Michigan residents struggling to make ends meet, a little extra cash can make a big difference. That is why credit unions have once again 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 might otherwise be overlooked.

More than 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 \$13.8 million to individuals and families last year. “The need for a program like *Just File It* is greater than ever,” said President and CEO Donald J. Mills, “Which is why AAACU is proud to join the network of credit unions and other nonprofits offering *Just file it!* to help families put food on the table, move into better housing, invest in education or save for the 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 online chats. It is offered in English, Spanish and Vietnamese.

A link to *Just file it!* can be accessed by visiting AAACU's website at 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 & Affiliates, 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).

###

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 November 30th, 2011, Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union provides service to 26,604 members and has total assets equal to \$248,871,105.

###