



Non-Profits Launch FREE Tax Preparation Services for Low-Income Families, Individuals

Monroe, MI —For the fifth year, Monroe County Community Credit Union launched an innovative Web-based program to provide low- to moderate-income individuals and families with free access to file for state and federal income tax credits and refunds. These include the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which can be as high as \$4,536.

Dubbed “Just file it! We’ll help: Free tax preparation resources for those who need it most,” the program is available from the credit union’s Web site www.mcccu.org. The United Way of Monroe County has gotten other local agencies involved, including Monroe County Opportunity Program (MCOP), the Monroe County Library System, Michigan Works, Monroe Service Center, AFL-CIO Services Program, Monroe County Community College, and Monroe County Senior Legal Services.

“Each partner is helping in their own area: library branches are offering free computer use, MCOP is taking appointments to assist with taxes, financial institutions are offering financial education, and individuals are encouraged to visit the IRS.gov website to become certified in tax preparation ,” said Connie Carroll, Executive Director of the United Way of Monroe County.

There are a variety of federal and state tax credits in addition to the EITC that can benefit low- to moderate-income individuals. Additional federal tax credits include the Child Tax Credit and the Federal Child and Dependent Care Credit. Michigan tax credits include the Home Heating Tax Credit, the Homestead Property Tax Credit, and the Child Deduction. These credits are available to those who file income tax returns and those who are exempt from filing requirements.

Last year, these efforts resulted in assisting 100 Monroe residents receive almost \$200,000 in refunds to in the form of tax refunds and credits. 2009 refunds are anticipated to be much higher. Anyone interested in more information should contact United Way of Monroe County’s 2-1-1 or 734-242-1331.