



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 31, 2012

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VITA Offers FREE Income Tax Return Assistance to Qualified Taxpayers

Eau Claire, WI – RCU is once again assisting the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program by offering free office space. This unique service will be available from February 6 until April 12 at the RCU Shopko South Office, which is located at 1049 W. Clairemont Avenue in Eau Claire. The hours will be Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 1:00 to 4:30pm. Please visit www.rcu.org for more information or call the VITA volunteer hotline at 715-833-6665 with any questions. Service will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. VITA is also offered by Western Dairyland, 418 Wisconsin Street, on Mondays from 1:00-4:30pm and Chippewa Valley Technical College (Room 239), 620 W. Clairemont Avenue, on Thursdays from 1:00-4:30pm.

VITA was created to provide free income tax return assistance to taxpayers who cannot afford to pay for professional help. VITA provides free tax assistance to handicapped, non-English speaking, elderly, and special needs taxpayers. In order to be eligible, taxpayers must have an **adjusted gross annual income under \$50,000**. Volunteers are University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire accounting students trained by the IRS and the Wisconsin Department of Revenue.

VITA offers assistance in completing basic tax forms (1040EZ, 1040A, and 1040). Taxpayers with complicated returns or questions will be referred to an IRS publication, to the IRS, or to seek private professional assistance. Eligibility is determined on a case-by-case basis by the VITA volunteer and is provided on a first-come, first-served basis. If you decide to take advantage of this unique service, please bring your 2010 tax return, all W-2, 1098 and 1099 forms, proof of identity, Social Security cards or Individual Tax Id Number letter for you and all family members, renters certificate or real estate property tax receipts, cost you paid for daycare and provider's tax id number, and any other documents showing income.

RCU is among a number of credit unions in Wisconsin who are taking the initiative to help build financially strong, self-supporting families and communities by offering innovative services like VITA.

RCU, Royal Credit Union, is a federally insured credit union serving over 130,000 Members with 22 full service offices in Amery, Balsam Lake, Centuria, Chippewa Falls, Colby, Eau Claire, Menomonie, Milltown, New Richmond, Osceola, Rice Lake, River Falls, St. Croix Falls, Somerset, Star Prairie, and Whitehall in Wisconsin and 3 full service offices in Edina, Coon Rapids, and St. Paul in Minnesota. You can open an account or apply for a low-cost loan at RCU if you live or work in 18 counties in Western Wisconsin, 12 counties in the Twin Cities Metro in Minnesota, or are a Realtor in Wisconsin or Minnesota. Visit www.rcu.org or call RCU at 1-800-341-9911 for more information 7 days a week.

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