



**Pathfinder Community Connections Offers Free Tax Prep Services to  
Huntington County Taxpayers**

*Encourages Filers Not to Be Fooled by So-Called “Quick Refund” Services*

Huntington, IN- As W-2s and other income tax forms make their way to Huntington County taxpayers’ mailboxes – signaling the start of yet another tax season – today Pathfinder Community Connections announced that it is offering free tax preparation services to area residents, and advised taxpayers to be aware of the real cost of “quick refund” services offered in today’s market.

Pathfinder Community Connections is one of many local nonprofit NeighborWorks organizations that offer free tax preparation services to new and current clients. Depending on the complexity of the return, using a free service can save each Huntington County taxpayer hundreds of dollars.

“Our tax preparation service is an added value to residents of Huntington and is aligned with our mission of service and economic empowerment,” said Jan Baumgartner, Director of Pathfinder Community Connections.

While some for-profit tax preparers claim to offer tax preparation services for free, according to research conducted by several consumer rights organizations, these free services are offset by the interest these preparers receive when consumers take what’s called a “refund anticipation loan” or a “quick tax” or “instant” refund, often taken the same day their taxes are prepared. These same-day so-called “quick refunds” are actually high-cost loans that can carry an annual percentage interest rate of 50 percent or more, unnecessarily costing consumer’s money that they would have saved had they waited for the IRS or state government to process their taxes and issue their refunds.

“In the current economic climate, it’s all too easy to accept a check on the spot and pay what seems to be a small amount of money in order to walk out the door with cash in hand,” said Baumgartner. “By waiting just a little while longer, a taxpayer can receive all of his or her money without paying interest, and continue on the path toward ‘financial fitness.’”

Taxpayers encouraged to seek the advice of trained tax preparers, like those at Pathfinder Community Connections, include first-time homebuyers because of the federal homebuyer tax credit that was available to qualified first-time homebuyers in 2009. And as always, it’s important to see a professional who can help a taxpayer determine if he or she is eligible for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit.

For more information about the tax preparation services offered by Pathfinder Community Connections please contact Beth Stevens at (260) 356-0521 or (800) 3120-9510. Stevens can also be reached via e-mail at [bstevens@pathfinderservices.org](mailto:bstevens@pathfinderservices.org).



Pathfinder Community Connections is the community development division of Pathfinder Services and was created in 1997. Pathfinder Community Connections guides potential home buyers through the entire process of pre-purchase education, loan packaging, closing on the home, post purchase counseling, and when in need foreclosure prevention. Pathfinder Community Connections can be found online at [www.cchomes.org](http://www.cchomes.org) and has provided over \$9.7 million in down payment assistance to over 1,300 families since 1997.