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**UNTANGLING HOMEBUYING AND THE NEW TAX CREDIT:
TOPLINE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION OFFERS FREE SEMINAR FOR
FIRST-TIME PURCHASERS**

MAPLE GROVE, MINN. — September 8, 2008 — The housing market has created a great opportunity for first-time homebuyers to opt in. In fact, in Minnesota last year, 42 percent of homes purchased were by first-time homebuyers.¹ This year promises even more opportunities for first-time homebuyers, including the recently announced federal housing credit.

Twin Cities-based TopLine Federal Credit Union is offering a free seminar at its Maple Grove branch on Sat., Sept. 13, 10 a.m., to help those considering buying a first home navigate the process.

TopLine mortgage experts are answering plenty of questions for members about this tax credit. “It’s a great time to buy, especially for first-time homeowners, and many are interested in the new federal housing credit. It is not free money, but rather a temporary, refundable, repayable tax credit that can be up to \$7,500, depending on your income and other criteria,” says Mary Wetterlin, general manager of TopLine’s first mortgage division. “There are so many good reasons to own your own home, and TopLine is here to help first-time buyers head down the road to ownership.”

TopLine mortgage advisors and LSS Financial Counselors will discuss the first-time homebuyer tax credit, how to become a homeowner, budget and money managing tips, building and maintaining good credit, understanding the buying process and how to get pre-qualified for your first mortgage. The seminar will be held at TopLine’s Learning Center, 9353 Jefferson Hwy in Maple Grove. To reserve your spot, call 763-391-0877.

For more about the homebuyer tax credit, visit www.federalhousingcredit.com.

¹ Minnesota Association of Realtors® 2007 report

TopLine Federal Credit Union, a Twin-Cities based credit union, is Minnesota's 13th largest, with assets of more than \$250 million. Established in 1935, TopLine offers a complete line of financial services from its headquarters in Maple Grove, and six branch offices located in Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Downtown Minneapolis, Edina, Maple Grove and Plymouth, as well as by phone and online at www.TopLinecu.com. Membership is available to anyone who lives, works, worships, attends school or volunteers in Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott or Washington Counties and their immediate family members.

LSS Financial Counseling Service, a member of the National Foundation for Credit Counseling, has offered credit counseling services since 1987 and is one of the largest providers of full-service, community-based financial counseling in Minnesota. The Minneapolis-based organization provides face-to-face debt counseling, a counselor-on-call hotline and financial education to help with everything from debt management and improving credit to identity theft prevention.

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