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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### OneUnited Bank Sponsors 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual *I Got Bank!* Essay Contest to Promote Financial Literacy for Youth

*Middle School Age Children Eligible to Win \$1,000 for Winning Essays*

Boston, MA (February 21, 2012) – OneUnited Bank announces its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual *I Got Bank!* essay contest to promote financial literacy for youth. Middle school students from across the country between the ages of 8 and 12 are encouraged to read *I Got Bank!*, or a similar financial book of their choosing, and write a 250-word essay about how they would apply what they learned from the book to their lives. Submissions must be emailed or postmarked by June 15, 2012. The Bank will choose three winners and award them a \$1,000 OneUnited Bank savings account by August 31, 2012.

Last year's winners Jordan Hartway, age 10, from Columbus, OH; Jaidah Lindsey, age 11, from Boston, MA; and Nailah Pierce, age 12, from Beverly, MA, wrote about the importance of savings, account tracking, and other financial insights.

Teri Williams, OneUnited Bank President and author of *I Got Bank!* wrote the book after she discovered that there weren't any books geared toward educating urban youth about finances. "I was inspired to write *I Got Bank!* because helping young people acquire financial literacy skills is a personal passion and mission for me and OneUnited Bank," said Williams. "I could not find a book about personal finance from the perspective of urban youth. Yet, when children learn the lessons of financial literacy at a young age, they form strong habits that can be life-changing." Ms. Williams has held numerous financial workshops for youth at schools and community organizations.

The *I Got Bank!* essay contest is part of a larger OneUnited Bank effort to educate urban youth about smart money management. *I Got Bank!* is offered at no cost to libraries and middle schools across the U.S. and to date, almost 3,000 copies have been donated in 37 states. The Bank hopes its efforts will increase awareness of such an important subject and improve the financial skills of children throughout the country.

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*I Got Bank!* is published by The Beckham Publications Group, Inc. ([www.beckhamhouse.com](http://www.beckhamhouse.com)). For more information on how libraries and middle schools can receive a free copy (supplies are limited) and the official essay contest rules, please visit: [www.oneunited.com/book](http://www.oneunited.com/book).

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### About OneUnited Bank

OneUnited Bank ([www.oneunited.com](http://www.oneunited.com)), a Minority Depository Institution (MDI) and a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), is a six time recipient of the Bank Enterprise Award from the U.S. Department of Treasury due to its focus on community development lending. Its mission is to be the premier bank serving urban communities by promoting financial literacy and offering affordable financial services. OneUnited has grown through a combination of organic development and by acquiring community banks that share its mission, including Boston Bank of Commerce in Boston, Massachusetts, Founders National Bank and Family Savings Bank in Los Angeles, California, and Peoples National Bank of Commerce in Miami, Florida.

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