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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OneUnited Hosts a Youth Book Drive for BookEnds

Teri Williams, Author of *I Got Bank*, Signs and Exchanges Her Book at the OneUnited Compton Branch in California

Compton, CA (September 27, 2011) – OneUnited Bank is partnering with BookEnds to host a book drive encouraging youth to donate books they no longer need or use. Books can be dropped off any OneUnited Bank California branch during the month of October.

On Saturday, October 8th, author of the children’s book *I Got Bank!* and OneUnited Bank President and Chief Operating Officer, Teri Williams is signing her book and exchanging her book for used books to be donated to BookEnds at the OneUnited Compton Branch, 205 E. Compton Blvd., Compton, CA from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The book signing and exchange are free and open to the public.

BookEnds, a nonprofit organization, recycles children’s books through student-run book drives and places them in schools and youth organizations in need of books. Since 1998, BookEnds has donated more than two million books to organizations and schools in need.

“I wrote *I Got Bank!* because I want to help young people form good money habits that will benefit them in the future,” said Williams. “Hosting a book drive for BookEnds and doing the book signing and exchange is a natural tie in to two things I am most passionate about, reading and financial literacy for our youth.”

Williams is passionate about promoting financial literacy to urban youth. To continue to encourage financial education to youth ages 8 – 12, OneUnited is offering free *I Got Bank!* books to public libraries and schools upon request (supplies are limited). To date, more than 1,000 books have been donated to schools and libraries in 34 states. For more information, visit www.oneunited.com/book. For more information about BookEnds visit www.bookends.org.

I Got Bank! is published by The Beckham Publications Group, Inc. (www.beckhamhouse.com); it is available on Amazon.com, or ask for it at your favorite bookstore. Info on the book is at www.oneunited.com/book. Retailers may order the book through Atlas Books Distribution or Baker & Taylor.

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OneUnited Bank

OneUnited Bank (www.oneunited.com), a Minority Depository Institution (MDI) and a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), has received the Bank Enterprise Award from the U.S. Department of Treasury for six years due to its 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.

About BookEnds

BookEnds is a nonprofit organization based in Southern California that recycles children's books through student-run book drives and places them in schools and youth organizations in need of books. By providing access to books, BookEnds gives children the resources to develop literacy skills and to experience the joy and imagination of reading. California ranks 49th in books-per-pupil in its elementary school libraries and last in the US in terms of public library access. Since 1998, BookEnds has donated more than two million books valued by LAUSD at more than \$16 million dollars. Every \$100 will buy \$500 worth of books for children in under resources facilities. For more information, visit www.bookends.org.

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