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ONEUNITED BANK SPONSORS 5th ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST TO PROMOTE FINANCIAL LITERACY FOR URBAN YOUTH

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

Boston, MA March 16, 2015 – OneUnited Bank announces its 5th 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, 2015. The Bank will choose three winners and award them a \$1,000 OneUnited Bank savings account by August 31, 2015. For more information, please visit: www.oneunited.com/book.

Teri Williams, OneUnited Bank President and author of I Got Bank! wrote the book when she found that there weren't any books geared toward educating urban youth about finances. "I am very excited that there is more focus on financial literacy today than five years ago when we launched our essay contest," said Williams. "Many organizations – including other banks – are offering financial literacy workshops for adults and kids." Ms. Williams has held numerous financial workshops at schools and community organizations throughout the country.

The I Got Bank! Essay Contest is part of a larger OneUnited Bank effort to educate urban youth about smart money management. The Bank has seen its efforts increase awareness of such an important subject and improve the financial skills of children and adults throughout the country.

2014 winners were: Amaya Horace, Bowie, Maryland, age: 12; Chase Abner, Los Angeles, California age 12 and Damoni Swain, Dorchester, Massachusetts, age 10. The students wrote about the importance of savings and starting a business.

Committed to educating community members about financial literacy, OneUnited Bank also offers Summer School – financial literacy workshops for adults in its branches during the summer month.

I Got Bank! is published by The Beckham Publications Group, Inc. (Beckhamhouse). For more information about the official essay contest rules, please visit: www.oneunited.com/book.

About OneUnited Bank

OneUnited Bank (<u>www.oneunited.com</u>), 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 ten years due to its community development lending.







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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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