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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(2007)

CONGRESSMAN GREEN AND OMNIBANK TEACH AMIGOS POR VIDA STUDENTS ABOUT SAVING, SPENDING WISELY

Local Event is Part of 11th Annual "National Teach Children to Save Day"

HOUSTON, Texas, April 4 – Amigos Por Vida students today received a lesson on saving from U.S. Rep. Al Green (D-9th) and Julie Cripe, president and COO of OMNIBANK and chair of the American Bankers Association Education Foundation, the sponsor of the 11th Annual National Teach Children to Save Day.

"Whether you're talking about a college education or home ownership, a good savings habit is the difference between dreams and reality," said Rep. Green. "I strongly believe that a rising tide lifts all boats. By creating an educated and literate population, we strengthen our national economy and help everyone take a step closer to the American dream."

Green is a member of the House Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, a Congressional group that advocates financial literacy and economic education through public policy. He also serves on the House Financial Services Committee.

Currently, fewer than 10 states require a personal finance course for graduation, and many parents feel their own financial shortcomings leave them ill-equipped to teach their children. This lack of financial education can lead to a life of financial missteps and unrealized dreams. According to the National Foundation for Credit Counseling, 66.7 percent of people obtaining pre-bankruptcy credit counseling cited poor money management as their reason for seeking bankruptcy protection.

"Children who learn money skills at an early age will be better savers, money managers and, frankly, better customers," said Cripe. "It's never too early to start saving for future expenses like a college education, a car or even a home. Time is on your side if you start saving while you're young."

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The Teach Children to Save presentation includes games and activities about saving, budgeting and distinguishing needs from wants.

The ABA Education Foundation helps fill the need for financial education by connecting bankers and young people. The Foundation's lesson plans and annual events, National Teach Children to Save Day and Get Smart about Credit Day, have helped more than 30,000 bankers teach money skills to nearly 2 million young people.

The ABA Education Foundation, a non-profit subsidiary of the American Bankers Association, is committed to developing and providing education programs that lead to financial literacy. For nearly eighty years, we have supported the banking industry's efforts to teach personal finance skills in schools and communities across the country. The programs we provide are specifically and uniquely created for young children, teenagers and adults to provide them with the skills they need to budget, save, and manage credit. For more information, visit http://www.aba.com/Consumer+Connection or call ***1-800-BANKERS****.*

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