

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

---

December 22, 2009

## **United Community Bank and Community Bank Mortgage Receives Top Honor from USDA**

United Community Bank was recognized as one of the state's top lenders in utilizing guaranteed home loans to make home purchases more affordable in rural Illinois. The US Department of Agriculture Rural Development annually honors lenders that excel in using the federal agency's guaranteed loan program to increase home ownership.

"In this difficult housing market, United Community Bank and Community Bank Mortgage are both committed to using Rural Development's guaranteed home loan program to help as many homebuyers as possible," said Kim Allen, a Rural Development Specialist in the agency's Jacksonville office. United Community Bank has provided homebuyers with \$2.8 million in Rural Development backed home loans this year. Community Bank Mortgage has provided homebuyers with \$1.8 million in Rural Development backed home loans this year.

"They helped borrowers buy their first homes or upgrade to better homes," said Kim Allen, Rural Development Specialist. "We are extremely pleased with United Community Bank's achievement. Homeownership is a key indicator of community stability, and their willingness to extend affordable credit that helps homebuyers purchase the home they want, also benefits the community."

With the Rural Development guarantee, United Community Bank can offer 100 percent loans with no required down payment, no private monthly mortgage insurance (PMI), no maximum purchase price, competitive fixed interest rates, and 30 year terms. The program includes flexible credit guidelines and generous income limits.

Information on eligibility for guaranteed home loan financing is available by contacting United Community Bank at 217-483-2491 or Community Bank Mortgage at 217 625-2551. The Guaranteed Rural Housing program is administered through the Rural Development office located in Jacksonville. They can be reached at 217-243-1535 ext. 4. USDA is an equal opportunity lender, provider, and employer.