

Media Contact: John Hanley, SVP, Director of Marketing (913) 583-8004 <u>ihanley@equitybank.com</u>

Media Contact: Prisca Barnes, President and CEO (316) 350-4511 priscabarnes@storytimevillage.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Equity Bank and Storytime Village Host Scholastic Book Fair

WICHITA, Kansas (November 19, 2021) - Equity Bank and Storytime Village have announced a joint upcoming Scholastic Book Fair to help local students build their own home libraries. Through Equity Bank's Bank on Reading program, the two organizations have joined efforts to provide hundreds of students with the opportunity to choose books at the school's book fair, hosted at Gordon Parks Academy in Wichita, KS from November 29 – December 3, 2021.

The month of November is nationally recognized as National Family Literacy Month. Storytime Village will be hosting two family literacy nights at Gordon Parks Academy on Tuesday, November 30, 2021 and Wednesday, December 1, 2021, where students and parents will be provided with a night of literature-based activities and seminars. In addition, Equity Bank will be providing students and adults with engaging information on financial literacy and personal finance.

Having a home library is an integral part of creating strong daily reading habits. This outreach is supporting over four hundred students with a \$10 voucher to select books they cannot wait to read and build their own personal libraries with, especially during the school's scheduled break at the end of December.

Equity Bank's Bank on Reading program, initiated in 2019, has to date provided thousands of books to local schools, students, and literacy organizations and is an extension of Equity Bank's mission to provide financial and literacy resources to their communities. Equity Bank locations throughout its four states have partnered locally with more than 25 classrooms and organizations to help student literacy. For more information on Equity Bank's Bank on Reading program, please visit www.equitybank.com/bankonreading.

About Scholastic Book Fairs

Scholastic Book Fairs is a division of Scholastic, Inc. A Scholastic Book Fair is a magical and unforgettable experience where all kids can choose the books they can't wait to read and own. The company was founded in 1920 and went global in 1940. Scholastic has since reached over 54 million students in 115,000 schools through its education resources.

About Storytime Village

Storytime Village, Inc. is a Kansas-based children's literacy nonprofit organization. With the support of parents and the community we inspire underserved children to read by providing them with free books and literacy resources. We recognize that, for children, books open doors to opportunities, new worlds and experiences, and overall build their self-esteem. For that reason, we strive to give every child in Kansas an opportunity for a better future through legacy.

About Equity Bank

Equity Bank is a \$5-billion community bank with locations throughout Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. Equity Bank offers a full range of financial solutions, including commercial loans, consumer banking, mortgage loans, and treasury management services. Equity Bank's parent company, Equity Bancshares, Inc., is based in Wichita and trades on the Nasdaq global Select Market under the ticker symbol 'EQBK.' Learn more at www.equitybank.com.

###