



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Annual BankRI Food Drive Begins August 1 at 20 Branches Statewide**

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** – As summer enters its final weeks, food pantries across the Ocean State are preparing for the high demand they experience during the month of September. In an effort to help emergency food programs re-stock their shelves, **Bank Rhode Island (BankRI)** will host a food drive at all [20 of its locations](#) beginning August 1.

The 7-week collection, which runs until Friday, September 20, represents the twelfth straight year BankRI has organized its drive to coincide with the Rhode Island Community Food Bank’s Summer Food Drive.

“We recognize the importance of helping local food pantries, and especially at a time when summer feeding programs are ending and kids lack access to the meals they receive in school,” said Mark J. Meiklejohn, President and CEO, BankRI. “Our food drive is a way for the community to join us in lending a hand – every donation helps to make a difference.”

For the drive, each BankRI location has partnered with a pantry that serves its community to ensure food collected at that branch stays local to help area residents. Food collection bins will be placed in each branch’s lobby to accept donations of nonperishable food items. The family- and kid-friendly foods most needed by pantries include, peanut butter, nutritious breakfast cereals, canned fruits and vegetables, boxed macaroni and cheese, and whole wheat pasta and tomato sauce. All 15 of the benefitting food pantries are members of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank’s network.

“We’re thrilled that BankRI is stepping up for the 12<sup>th</sup> year to support our Summer Food Drive,” said Andrew Schiff, CEO of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. “We hope that everyone will take advantage of this opportunity to help our neighbors in need by bringing food donations to their nearby BankRI branch.”

Along with the food collected in its branches, BankRI has committed a \$4,500 contribution to the Food Bank on behalf of its food pantry partners. The gift will provide each pantry a grant to purchase additional food through the Food Bank’s leveraged acquisition program at the times they need it most.

For a list of BankRI branches and their hours, please visit [www.BankRI.com/locations](http://www.BankRI.com/locations).

### **About Bank Rhode Island**

Bank Rhode Island, a wholly owned subsidiary of Brookline Bancorp, Inc. (NASDAQ:BRKL), is a full-service, FDIC-insured financial institution headquartered in Providence, Rhode Island. The bank operates 20 branches and more than 45 ATMs throughout Providence, Kent, Newport and Washington Counties. For more information, visit [www.bankri.com](http://www.bankri.com). You can also find BankRI on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/BankRhodeIsland](http://www.Facebook.com/BankRhodeIsland).

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