



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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Michael J. Cerio  
Cerio Communications  
(401) 743-8269  
[Michael@CerioCommunications.com](mailto:Michael@CerioCommunications.com)

## **BankRI Awards Grant to Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket in Support of Educational After-School Programs**

*\$2,000 charitable gift to fund the delivery of out-of-school time initiatives such as homework help and tutoring, science activities, financial literacy workshops, career counseling, and more*

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** – The Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket’s educational after-school programming has received a financial boost through philanthropy. The organization – which serves an average of 300 youth each day – was recently awarded a \$2,000 charitable grant by **Bank Rhode Island (BankRI)**.

Much more than athletics and gym, the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket offers a wide range of out-of-school time programs geared toward helping youth succeed in the classroom and as adults. Funding from BankRI is supporting the delivery of daily afternoon activities, in which members choose from a selection of hour-long educational programs. Among the available initiatives are homework help and tutoring, lessons in the Club’s technology lab, science activities, financial literacy workshops, and career counseling.

“The combination of the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket’s daily reach and their commitment to learning outside of school uniquely positions them as one of our state’s strongest youth service organizations,” said Mark J. Meiklejohn, President and CEO of BankRI. “By helping students succeed today, we’re laying the foundation for their success as adults, and that’s an investment with the power to change lives.”

Programs at the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket target youth throughout the city, along with those from the neighboring community of Central Falls. Of the youth it serves during the school year, 85 percent are eligible for free or reduced lunch, and nearly half live in single-parent households. In addition to the academic benefits of structured, out-of-school time learning, the organization’s afternoon programs provide youth a safe, supportive and welcoming environment. In Pawtucket, an estimated one in five school-aged children is left unsupervised after school, increasing their likelihood of high-risk behavior.

“At the Club, our kids have access to essential programs they need to be successful at school and have the opportunity to build life-skills that they will take with them well into the future,” said Amy Gravell, Associate Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket. “We rely on funding from our community partners to be able to not only change lives, but also save them. We are especially grateful for Bank Rhode Island’s support, which will enable us to continue to make a difference and give our kids access to high-quality education programs.”

### **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 55 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](https://www.facebook.com/BankRhodeIsland).

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