



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BankRI Awards \$10,000 in Grants to Fund Homebuyer Education Classes

Pawtucket Central Falls Development and West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation each receive \$5,000 to deliver homeownership programs

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – With a focus on helping to provide first time homebuyers with the resources and financial knowledge needed to purchase their first home, Bank Rhode Island (BankRI) has awarded \$10,000 in grants to two local organizations to fund homebuyer education classes.

Pawtucket Central Falls Development and West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation each have received \$5,000 to deliver homeownership programs. In addition to the funding, BankRI professionals will be volunteering to lend their expert insight and lead select courses. Both organizations currently have classes scheduled and are recruiting participants. Those interested in learning more or registering are encouraged to contact the organizations directly.

“These grants are investments in the futures of local families by supporting their long-term success as homeowners,” said Mark J. Meiklejohn, President and CEO of BankRI. “Buying a house is typically the single largest financial decision that people make, and graduates of these education programs are more prepared for homeownership. If you’re a first time buyer, these classes are invaluable.”

Pawtucket Central Falls Development offers a bilingual Homeownership Program for first time buyers featuring both classes and one-on-one consultations. The program includes pre- and post-purchase education. It is led by a HUD-certified counselor and covers financial literacy training, credit counseling, pre-purchase assistance, and creating a customized action plan for each buyer. Interested participants may contact Linda Weisinger at lweisinger@pcfdevelopment.org or (401) 726-1173 ext. 14 for more information and a schedule of classes.

At **West Elmwood Housing Development Corporation (WEHDC)**, monthly homebuyer classes are offered in English and Spanish. Classes in other languages, such as Portuguese and Cape Verdean, may be arranged. WEHDC also offers a course for first time landlords. In addition to a focus on navigating the mortgage process and improving financial capability, each course includes a personalized, 1-hour counseling session. WEHDC can also arrange for “pop-up” classes for those who need schedule flexibility. For information or to sign up, folks may contact Belinda Philippe at bphilippe@westelmwood.org or (401) 453-3220 ext. 21.

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 40 ATMs throughout Providence, Kent, Newport and Washington Counties. For more information, visit www.bankri.com. You can also find BankRI on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/BankRhodeIsland.

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