



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 2, 2020

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10th Annual Children’s Book Drive Kicks-Off March 2 at all BankRI Branches

Month-long effort will help Books Are Wings stock its “Book Spots” outdoor free libraries in the communities of Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Throughout the month of March, **Bank Rhode Island (BankRI)** invites customers and the community to visit any of its [20 branches](#) to donate kids’ books during its annual Children’s Book Drive. This year marks the effort’s 10th anniversary and partnership with Books Are Wings, the Pawtucket-based nonprofit whose unique programs put thousands of free books in the hands of local kids annually.

“Our children’s book drive has been incredibly embraced by customers, colleagues and community since we began a decade ago,” said Patricia O’Donnell-Saracino, VP of Community Relations for BankRI. “Improving access to books for kids – by providing books they can keep – is an easy cause for people to get behind. This is a collection that will impact children across the state.”

During March, each BankRI branch location will feature a collection bin in its lobby for donations of new and gently-used children’s books. And new for this year is the ability to participate in the drive by purchasing a book from an online [Wish List](#) of titles curated by Books Are Wings. The Wish List button can be found visiting www.BooksAreWings.org/donate-books.

Following the drive, BankRI volunteers will sort and organize the collected children’s books by age level and topic. The books will then be delivered to Books Are Wings for the organization’s “Book Spots” program in communities of need.

Books Are Wings’ [“Book Spots”](#) are outdoor and indoor structures that serve as free, readily available libraries for children and families. They are based on the ‘take a book, return a book’ exchange model made popular by the Wisconsin nonprofit Little Free Library. In Rhode Island, Books Are Wings received permission to alter the concept so children could take books without the expectation that they be returned.

Books collected by BankRI will be used to help keep “Book Spots” in Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket stocked. In total, Books Are Wings has 17 “Book Spots” locations, with more planned for installation this spring and summer.

For a list of BankRI branches, their addresses and hours of operation, visit 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 40 ATMs throughout Providence, Kent, Newport and Washington Counties. For more information, visit www.bankri.com. You can also find BankRI on [Facebook](#).

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