



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Brightening the Season for Underprivileged Kids Statewide, BankRI's "Holiday Giving Tree" Results in 1,466 Gifts**

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** – Hundreds of children across the Ocean State are receiving special gifts to help brighten their season thanks to **Bank Rhode Island (BankRI)** and the generosity of its customers and staff. Through its 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Holiday Giving Tree program, the bank collected 1,466 presents for underprivileged kids helped by 16 nonprofits statewide.

"Every year we look for our Giving Tree program to be successful, and every year I'm taken aback by the incredible response of everyone involved," said Mark J. Meiklejohn, President and CEO, BankRI. "Having an opportunity to put a smile on the faces of kids who may be going through tough times is what this time of year is all about."

BankRI begins the Holiday Giving Tree program the day after Thanksgiving, with all 20 of its branches featuring a Giving Tree decorated with ornaments that include the name, age, and gift wish of a local child. For nearly four weeks, individuals selected ornaments and later returned to their branch to place donated gifts beneath the tree. As of December 20, all presents were given to BankRI's nonprofit partners for distribution to children, ensuring they'd reach their new homes before the holiday.

The 16 nonprofit partners of BankRI's 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Holiday Giving Tree are: Adoption Rhode Island, Aids Care Ocean State, Boys & Girls Clubs of Warwick, Community Care Alliance, Comprehensive Community Action Program, Connecting for Children & Families, CrossroadsRI: Domestic Violence Program, East Bay Community Action Program, East Greenwich Dept. of Human Services, Kingstown Crossings, Lucy's Hearth, Providence Housing Authority, SSTARbirth, 'Tis the Season Coventry/West Greenwich, Tri-County Community Action Agency, and Welcome House of South County.

### **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](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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