



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Book Drive at all 20 BankRI Branches across the State to Run throughout March

*Month-long effort in partnership with Books Are Wings recognizes
National Reading Month and the importance of supporting childhood literacy*

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – As school children across the U.S. prepare to kick-off National Reading Month on Friday by celebrating the birthday of the beloved Dr. Seuss, **Bank Rhode Island (BankRI)** is getting ready to continue its support of childhood literacy. On March 1, BankRI will welcome the return of its annual Book Drive at each of its 20 branches across the state.

Throughout the entire month of March, all BankRI locations will host a collection for new and gently-used children’s books that will then be given to kids by Books Are Wings. This is the 9th year the Bank has partnered with the Pawtucket-based nonprofit, whose mission has put more than 500,000 free books in the hands of local children from some of the state’s neediest communities.

“Our book drive is an easy way for customers and members of the community to help kids fall in love with reading thanks to giving them books they can call their own,” said Patricia O’Donnell-Saracino, VP of Community Relations for BankRI. “I’m sure many of us have our own favorite book memory from when we were young, so having a chance to pass that on to a child who may not have age-appropriate books in their home makes for a very powerful gift.”

Since the inception of BankRI’s Book Drive in 2011, the effort has provided more than 17,500 books to Rhode Island children, including 3,252 in 2018 – a number the Bank hopes to exceed this year.

“While tests don’t represent the full picture of a child’s learning, the stark results of the latest state testing scores show that far too many Rhode Island children – two-thirds – are not meeting grade-level reading expectations,” said Jocelynn White, Director, Books Are Wings. “We are committed to changing this statistic and are grateful to partners like BankRI for bringing people together around the important work to foster a love of reading in every child.”

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 55 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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