



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Community Comes Together to Donate 1,622 Books during BankRI Drive**

*9<sup>th</sup> annual collection brings effort's grand total to more than 19,000 children's books since inception*

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** – Rhode Islanders deposited more than just money at **Bank Rhode Island (BankRI)** branches across the state throughout March, donating 1,622 children's books to the Bank's annual collection. The results pushed the drive's grand total to more than 19,000 books collected since its inception.

Now in its 9<sup>th</sup> year, BankRI's effort is strategically timed to coincide with National Reading Month and is held in partnership with Books Are Wings. In teaming up with the Pawtucket-based nonprofit that puts free books in the hands of local children, BankRI's drive provides the organization an influx of books earmarked for kids in some of the state's neediest communities.

"It isn't only the number of books that are collected, but the quality and thoughtfulness donors put into what they give – we received great books for infants up through middle school-aged students," said Patricia O'Donnell-Saracino, VP of Community Relations for BankRI. "Our sincerest thanks to everyone who made a contribution; this is a true team effort and we're so grateful to have the support of our community."

The books generated through the drive were collected at BankRI's 20 branch locations across the state, along with at its Operations Center in Lincoln. Teams of BankRI volunteers have sorted and labeled the books to prepare them for distribution to local kids.

As part of BankRI's partnership with Books Are Wings, a portion of the books will be given to students at Mary E. Fogarty Elementary School in Providence as part of the organization's "Sponsor-A-School" program. Through the program, BankRI volunteers also visit classrooms to read to students.

**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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