



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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\$25,000 in Grants Sent to Local Nonprofits to Help Rhode Islanders

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – As Rhode Island’s nonprofit community remains on the frontline addressing the needs of struggling families, **Bank Rhode Island (BankRI)** has sent a total of \$25,000 in grants to 9 local organizations. The grants support the delivery of critical human services along with programs that provide food and housing assistance, and range from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

Operation Stand Down Rhode Island (OSDRI), which hosts its annual *Stand Down Weekend* for homeless and at-risk veterans on September 18 and 19, is among the organizations to receive funding.

“This has been a particularly difficult year with many veterans struggling to meet their most basic of needs – Stand Down Weekend may be more important than ever because it will reach the neediest of our veterans,” said Erik B. Wallin, Executive Director of OSDRI. “We know our veterans are most comfortable when working with other veterans to get the help they need and that’s exactly what we’re able to provide thanks to partners like BankRI, both during Stand Down Weekend and year-round.”

The \$4,500 grant awarded to OSDRI helped the organization meet new safety guidelines and overcome challenges associated with coordinating the in-person weekend event to be held at Johnston War Memorial Park. Additionally, a portion of the grant will support the OSDRI food pantry as food costs increase at a time when demand has spiked by some 20 percent. **For more information on *Stand Down Weekend*, please call (401) 383-4730 or email osdri@osdri.org.**

Providence-based Nonviolence Institute is another organization to receive funding. The \$3,500 grant supports its Streetworkers Outreach Program, a specially-trained “boots on the ground” team on call 24/7 to respond to scenes of community violence, de-escalate conflicts, and mentor at-risk youth. The program is the first of the organization’s multi-pronged approach, which also includes Victim Services, Employment and Education, and Nonviolence Training.

“Our streetworkers are in neighborhoods diffusing violent situations and helping young people to make better choices in the face of conflict,” said Cedric Huntley, the Institute’s interim executive director. “There’s no question that COVID and our environment has exacerbated stress levels; we’ve been busier than ever, seeing more unrest. But our goal is always nonviolence through intervention and prevention.”

Mark J. Meiklejohn, President and CEO of BankRI, commented, “Over the past six months, our entire state has seen just how vital the work is that nonprofits do every day. It’s up to all of us to help support these efforts on behalf of our most vulnerable neighbors.”

The full list of grantee organizations is as follows: Aids Care Ocean State, Federal Hill House, Jammatt Housing, Jonnycake Center of Peace Dale, Nonviolence Institute, Operation Stand Down Rhode Island, Pawtucket Soup Kitchen, Southside Community Land Trust, and Stop Wasting Abandoned Property (SWAP).

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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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