



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**BankRI to Host 7-Week Food Drive in Branches Statewide Beginning August 1,
 Helping Local Pantries Restock Shelves during Time of High Need**

Food will be distributed to food pantries in each branch’s community to feed families in need

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Continuing with its commitment to help local families who struggle to put food on the table, **Bank Rhode Island (BankRI)** will kick-off its annual food drive at each of its 19 branches statewide on August 1. The 7-week effort runs through Friday, September 16, and coincides with the Rhode Island Community Food Bank’s critically-important Summer Food Drive.

For the drive, each BankRI branch has partnered with a food pantry that serves its community, ensuring the food collected stays local to feed area residents. The timing of the drive aims to help pantries meet the continued need they experience during late summer, when school remains out and children lack access to the meals they receive during the academic year, and summer feeding programs have ended.

“That our annual food drive has generated more than 60 tons over the past four years between branch collections and financial contributions speaks not only to the generosity of our customers and staff, but also of the need,” said Mark J. Meiklejohn, President and CEO of BankRI. “Families with already limited budgets often struggle more as summer winds down—every donation we receive, no matter the size, will help greatly.”

Beginning on August 1, all BankRI locations will have prominently placed food collection bins in their lobbies for members of the community to drop-off donations. Some of the most-needed items of the drive’s food pantry partners include: peanut butter, tuna, nutritious breakfast cereals, canned beans, whole wheat pasta, tomato sauce, and canned fruits and vegetables. Each partnering pantry is a member of the Food Bank’s network of emergency food programs. BankRI branches and their pantry partners are:

Branch Location	Food Pantry
Coventry	Coventry Friends of Human Services
Cranston: Atwood Ave., Park Ave., Plainfield Pike	Comprehensive Community Action Program
East Greenwich	East Greenwich Interfaith Food Cupboard
E. Providence: Highland Ave., Taunton Ave.	East Bay Community Action Program
Johnston	Tri-Town Community Action Agency
North Kingstown	North Kingstown Food Pantry
Pawtucket	Blackstone Valley Emergency Food Center
Providence: East Side	Domestic Violence Program of Crossroads RI
Providence: Turks Head	Providence In-town Churches Association Food Pantry
Smithfield	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry at St. Philip Church
Wakefield	Jonnycake Center of Peace Dale
Warwick: Buttonwoods, Centerville Rd., Warwick Ave.	Westbay Community Action Program
Woonsocket & Lincoln	Connecting for Children & Families

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Along with the food collected in its branches, BankRI will provide a \$4,200 grant to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank for the acquisition of additional food on behalf of each partnering food pantry. As the state's largest hunger-relief organization, the Food Bank serves an average of 60,000 Rhode Islanders each month through its network, a number that's nearly doubled since 2007.

To find the BankRI branch closest to you, please 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 19 branches and more than 55 ATMs throughout Providence, Kent 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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