



BankRI Awards Grants to Two South County Organizations

Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County and Rhode Island Center Assisting Those in Need Beneficiaries of Bank's Charitable Giving Program

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Since expanding its footprint into South County with the May 2014 opening of its new Wakefield branch, **Bank Rhode Island (BankRI)** has dedicated itself to giving back and becoming an integral part of the community. This commitment was on full display as the Bank recently awarded grants to the Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County and the Rhode Island Center Assisting those in Need.

Founded by volunteers more than 35 years ago, the Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County provides shelter, legal advocacy and accessible telephone counseling to victims of domestic violence. The organization is the only agency of its kind serving residents of Washington County and is an active member of the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

During the past year, the Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County housed 46 women and children for 2,930 bed nights through its Safe Home and Transitional Housing program, responded to nearly 1,100 helpline calls and provided services to 1,014 individual domestic violence victims. BankRI's \$1,000 grant will help support the organization's core programs.

While many may not envision their South County neighbors struggling to meet their basic needs, the Rhode Island Center Assisting Those in Need has been providing emergency food, clothing, and other vital supports to local residents since 2001. Coupled with an economy that continues to recover, the high cost of living throughout Washington County makes it difficult for families to get through difficult times. As a result, the organization has seen a substantial increase in the demand for its services.

Through its 24-hour emergency assistance helpline, the Rhode Island Center Assisting those in Need ensures clients have access to the resources they need when there's nowhere else to turn. Last year, the organization distributed more than 318,000 pounds of food, which equates to providing one million meals to 18,330 residents. BankRI's \$1,000 grant will support the organization's feeding programs.

"Supporting the community and helping our fellow Rhode Islanders—whether with putting food on the table or resources to escape a dangerous situation at home—is the foundation on which BankRI was built," said Mark J. Meiklejohn, President and CEO of BankRI. "We are pleased to support the important work of these two organizations and their efforts to help people improve their lives."

Press Contact:

Michael J. Cerio
Cerio Communications
(401) 743-8269

Michael@CerioCommunications.com

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 60 ATMs throughout Providence, Kent and Washington Counties. For more information, visit www.BANKRHODEISLAND.com.