



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 10, 2018

Michael J. Cerio

Cerio Communications

(401) 743-8269

Michael@CerioCommunications.com

BankRI's 8th Annual Book Drive Results in 3,252 Books for Local Children

Month-long effort throughout March to benefit Books Are Wings brings total number of books collected to more than 17,500 since drive's inception in 2011

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Throughout the month of March, customers and staff of **Bank Rhode Island (BankRI)** embraced the opportunity to help put free books in the hands of local children, coming together to donate more than 3,252 books to the Bank's 8th annual collection.

Timed to coincide with National Reading Awareness Month, the effort was held in partnership with Books Are Wings, a Pawtucket-based nonprofit whose mission is to provide access to books to every child in Rhode Island.

"Each year, I find myself in awe of the outpouring of generosity to our book drive by customers and staff alike who want to be part of the solution to improve childhood literacy and help kids fall in love with reading," said Patricia O'Donnell-Saracino, Vice President of Community Relations for BankRI. "I cannot thank everyone enough for their support in making this year's collection a success and for giving a gift to children that will help them succeed in the classroom and beyond."

The more than 3,200 books generated through the drive were collected at each of BankRI's 20 branch locations across the state, and have been sorted and prepared for distribution by Bank volunteers. As part of BankRI's partnership with Books Are Wings, a bulk 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. The remainder of the books will be distributed to children from some of the state's neediest communities in advance of April school vacation.

Since its inception in 2011, BankRI's annual book drive has generated more than 17,500 books.

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.

###