



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 15, 2020

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BankRI Sends \$37,000 to Organizations to Assist with Basic Needs and to Support Youth Education Programs

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – With a focus on helping struggling Rhode Islanders meet their basic needs and that youth remain engaged in learning during these unpredictable times, Bank Rhode Island (BankRI) has awarded a total of \$37,000 in charitable grants. Funding was provided to 17 organizations, with grants ranging from \$750 to \$5,000.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Providence (BGCP) received its grant to fund an after school academic support program for children who attend Mary E. Fogarty Elementary School.

“This school year is unlike any other for kids – there is the added stress and anxiety of the pandemic and all of the changes it has brought to their lives,” said Nicole Dufresne, Chief Executive Officer of BGCP. “To be able to provide this support in a familiar, comfortable environment offers a tremendous amount of relief to our members and their families. BankRI understands what we’re doing here and is a great partner.”

At the end of each in-person school day, trained BGCP staff walks students from the school to its South Side Clubhouse, making it possible for most children to participate. At the Clubhouse, youth receive support completing their homework and a hot dinner. Following dinner, kids choose to participate in swim, gym, or games room activities. Along with helping to make this after school program possible, BankRI has a long history of supporting BGCP’s STEM education efforts.

“We’ve seen for months – and expect to continue seeing – just how vital the work is of our state’s nonprofit community during times of crisis,” said Mark J. Meiklejohn, President and CEO of BankRI. “Helping to provide for families’ basic necessities and supporting the education of children are two of our community’s most important, and vital needs.”

Other organizations to receive grants include West Broadway Neighborhood Association and Lucy’s Hearth. WBNA was awarded funds in support of its *Live Local, Give Local* initiative. The effort provides grocery gift cards to families in need whose children attend school on Providence’s West Side, as well as toys for holiday gifts. The bank’s grant to Lucy’s Hearth will fund services vital to helping families gain permanent housing. Throughout 2020, the Aquidneck Island organization has served a record number of homeless families with what it describes as ‘high acuity needs’ magnified by the pandemic.

The full list of grantee organizations is: AccessPoint RI, Art Connection RI, Boys & Girls Clubs of Pawtucket, Boys & Girls Clubs of Providence, City of Pawtucket, Highlander Charter School, Juanita Sanchez Educational Complex, Lucy’s Hearth, Omni Development Corporation, Operation Stand Down RI, Reach Out & Read RI, Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless, Scholarship Foundation of East Providence, School One, Sojourner House, Southside Community Land Trust, and West Broadway Neighborhood Association.

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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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