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BankRI Book Drive Generates More than 2,000 Books for Local Students

Annual partnership with Books Are Wings culminates with Bank employees volunteering to read to children at Robertson Elementary School in Central Falls

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – In an effort that engaged hundreds of customers and employees at its 19 branches across the state, **Bank Rhode Island’s (BankRI)** month-long Book Drive throughout March generated more than 2,000 books for local students.

This year’s collection marked the fifth consecutive year BankRI has partnered with Books Are Wings to help support improvements in reading proficiency by putting free books in the hands of children. Since the partnership began, BankRI has collected nearly 10,000 books for students in some of the state’s neediest communities. All of the books generated through this year’s collection will be distributed to students in Central Falls during a 3-day book fair being organized by BankRI and Books Are Wings for June.

At the conclusion of the drive, a team of BankRI employees spent the morning of April 16 reading to students at Robertson Elementary School in Central Falls, one of the many schools where Books Are Wings provides books and hosts reading parties. Bank volunteers read *Hop On Pop* by Dr. Seuss, followed by helping students create their own bookmarks.

“We are absolutely thrilled with the community’s response to our annual book drive, which offers people the opportunity to help children develop a love of reading through building their own libraries at home,” said Patricia O’Donnell-Saracino, Vice President of Community Relations for BankRI. “One of the most troubling childhood statistics in our state is that 42 percent of fourth graders from low-income households read below grade level—we are happy to do our part to help change this troubling trend.”

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.

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