



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 18, 2016

Michael J. Cerio

Cerio Communications

(401) 743-8269

[Michael@CerioCommunications.com](mailto:Michael@CerioCommunications.com)

## **Community Responds Generously to BankRI Book Drive, More than 2,300 Books Collected for Local Children during National Reading Month**

*Effort in partnership with Books Are Wings brings six-year total to more than 12,000 books donated*

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** – With its timing coinciding with National Reading Month, **Bank Rhode Island (BankRI)** is pleased to announce the results of its month-long book drive in support of Books Are Wings, a Pawtucket-based nonprofit that distributes books to children in some of Rhode Island’s neediest communities.

Throughout the month of March, customers and staff of BankRI’s 19 branches responded generously to the effort, coming together to donate more than 2,300 books that will be given to local kids to help foster a love of reading. It marked the Bank’s sixth year partnering with Books Are Wings and brought the drive’s total to more than 12,000 books collected since 2011.

“Not only did our customers and staff once again step up to the plate to help others, the quality of the books donated and their wide-range of subjects were second-to-none,” said Mark J. Meiklejohn, President and CEO of BankRI. “We are thrilled with the results of this year’s collection and appreciative of everyone who contributed to its success to ensure children have books to call their own and an opportunity to build their home libraries.”

“We continue to be thankful for BankRI’s commitment to children’s literacy here in Rhode Island, and for the dedication of their customers and employees who wholeheartedly get behind this collection each year,” said Jocelynn White, Director of Books Are Wings. “Because of their efforts, more than 1,000 local children have the great opportunity to choose from a wonderful selection of books to take home.”

To learn more about Books Are Wings and their work to put free books in the hands of Rhode Island children who need them most, visit [www.BooksAreWings.org](http://www.BooksAreWings.org).

### **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.BANKRHODEISLAND.com](http://www.BANKRHODEISLAND.com). You can also find BankRI on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/BankRhodeIsland](http://www.Facebook.com/BankRhodeIsland).

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