



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 21, 2017

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BankRI's Month-Long Collection Generates 2,339 Books for Local Children

Annual effort in partnership with Books Are Wings brings 7-year total to nearly 15,000 books

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – In what has become one of **Bank Rhode Island's (BankRI)** signature community efforts, Bank customers from across the state embraced the opportunity to help put free books in the hands of children by donating 2,339 books during the Bank's recent Book Drive in partnership with Books Are Wings. Held throughout the month of March to coincide with National Reading Month, the results of the 7th annual drive bring the overall total to nearly 15,000 books since inception.

"We could not be more grateful to the customers and staff who step up, year after year, and generously donate books to children who will treasure them," said Patricia O'Donnell-Saracino, Vice President of Community Relations for BankRI. "Giving a child the gift of reading is not only crucial to their success in the classroom, but is a gift they will keep throughout their life. Our thanks to everyone who helped make this year's collection a success."

All of the books, which were collected at each of BankRI's 20 branch locations throughout March, have been sorted and prepared for their new homes by BankRI volunteers. Through the Bank's partnership with Books Are Wings, the books will soon be distributed to children at Margaret I. Robertson Elementary School in Central Falls and Leviton Dual Language School in Providence.

"Thanks to BankRI, their customers and staff, more than one-thousand local children will have a chance to fall in love with reading and receive the books that help them to begin building their own home libraries," said Jocelynn White, Director of Books Are Wings. "It is because of the community's ongoing support that Books Are Wings is able to partner with schools across our state to help our youngest students discover the magic that can only be found in the pages of a book."

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.

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