



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BankRI Awards \$2,000 Grant to Community Boating Center to Help Local Kids Experience Sailing

Bank's philanthropic support will provide sailing lesson scholarships for 60 low-income, inner-city youth

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – In support of helping low-income youth from Central Falls and Providence experience the joys of sailing in upper Narragansett Bay, **Bank Rhode Island (BankRI)** has awarded a \$2,000 charitable grant to the [Community Boating Center](#). The funds will be used to provide sailing lesson scholarships for 60 youth.

Since being established in 1994 with a small fleet of boats and just a few docks at India Point Park, the Community Boating Center (CBC) has grown to include a new multi-function boathouse and a fleet of 60+ boats while playing an important role in the growth of Providence's waterfront revival. The organization is an accredited US Sailing Community Sailing Center, recognized for offering the highest level of boating education and public access.

Through its "Sailorship" scholarship program, CBC helps to enrich the lives of inner-city youth by providing maritime experiences that expand their hopes, dreams and aspirations beyond the limitations of a concrete horizon. In addition to having access to hands-on sailing, youth participate in a variety of educational initiatives, such as buoyancy/density lessons, water quality testing and marine debris, environmental education, and S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering, and math) activities.

"As the Ocean State, it's important that we help introduce kids to the wonders of the open water, especially those who otherwise may not have the opportunity," said Mark J. Meiklejohn, President and CEO of BankRI. "The programs that the Community Boating Center offers in conjunction with sailing open new doors of possibility for youth; we are pleased to support their work and provide experiences for local kids that they'll remember for a lifetime."

"Through the continued, generous support of BankRI, youth can harness the power of the wind or a paddle to get outside, embrace the environment, learn new skills, and meet a diverse group of people," John O'Flaherty, Community Boating Executive Director commented. "Sailing and paddling may not be for everyone, but at CBC they're available for anyone up for the challenge."

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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