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300 Woonsocket Students Enjoy Imagination Series Performance at Stadium Theatre Thanks to Gift from BankRI

Bank's long-time support of historic performing arts center provides access to shows for youth who otherwise may never experience the joys of a live performance

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – It was the middle of the school day on Monday, April 25, but for 300 Woonsocket students, they didn't find themselves sitting in a classroom. Instead, they were taking in a performance of "Choosy Suzy's Bully Prevention" show at the Stadium Theatre, enjoying access to the performing arts they otherwise may not experience, thanks to support from **Bank Rhode Island (BankRI)**.

The show, which reinforces the bullying prevention lessons shared in schools, is part of the Stadium's highly successful Imagination Series, designed to provide children and young adults the opportunity to develop a greater appreciation for the arts at an early age. The April 25 show was attended by students from Coleman Elementary School and Governor Pothier Elementary School, and underwritten by a \$1,500 grant from BankRI. Additionally, Valley Transportation donated free busing for both schools.

"Supporting educational programming—both in schools and beyond their walls—is an important focus of BankRI's community support," said Mark J. Meiklejohn, President and CEO of BankRI. "We realize that many schools, particularly those that serve lower-income neighborhoods, have limited funding that makes it difficult to provide these types of activities, which is why we're so committed to helping to fill that void."

Each year, the Stadium Theatre's Imagination Series hosts 11 to 12 shows that are open to all schools and educational affiliates, and geared for children in grades K through 12. The series was launched in 2007 to help reinforce Common-Core Teaching Standards by lending vision and creativity to teachers' lessons. In June, an additional grant of \$3,000 from BankRI will enable Harris Elementary School students to attend "The Dinosaur Diary of Dr. T-Rex."

"Over the years, BankRI has been a wonderful supporter of the Stadium Theatre, partnering with us to bridge the gap for arts access for our local schools and students," said Michelle Pezza, Development Director for the Stadium Theatre. "Children are always delighted to take part in these live, interactive shows, and participation helps our teachers reinforce their classroom lessons—we are so grateful to BankRI for understanding our community's needs."

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. You can also find BankRI on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/BankRhodeIsland.

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