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Spreading Cheer: BankRI's 20th Annual "Holiday Giving Tree" Brightens Season for Underprivileged Children, Provides 1,500 Gifts

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – With the December 25th holiday just days away, hundreds of local children are experiencing the magic of the season early thanks to the generosity of **Bank Rhode Island (BankRI)**, its customers and staff. Through the Bank's 20th annual Holiday Giving Tree program, the community came together to donate more than 1,500 gifts, helping to brighten the holidays for underprivileged kids served by BankRI's nonprofit partners.

Beginning the day after Thanksgiving and continuing through mid-December, gifts for children of all ages poured into BankRI's 20 branches across the state. The gifts represented the holiday wishes of children, which were written on ornaments that decorated each branch's tree. For four weeks, community members selected ornaments to grant that child's wish, returning to their branch to place the gifts beneath the Holiday Giving Tree. All of the gifts have since been picked up by the program's partners, ensuring they would reach the children who will cherish them in advance of the holiday.

Among the gifts collected, some of the most popular presents donated included superhero action figures, Lego play sets, Barbie dolls, board games and puzzles, Nerf toys, arts & craft kits, Hot Wheels, and even a few bicycles.

"The old saying that it is better to give than to receive could not be more apt when you consider the community's response to our Holiday Giving Tree," said Mark J. Meiklejohn, President and CEO of BankRI. "We are extremely grateful to everyone who contributed to this year's effort—helping to spread joy to children, particularly during the holiday season, is what this time of year is all about."

BankRI's nonprofit partners of its 20th annual Holiday Giving Tree include: Adoption Rhode Island, Aids Care Ocean State, Boys & Girls Clubs of Warwick, Community Care Alliance, Connecting for Children & Families, Domestic Violence Program of Crossroads RI, East Bay Community Action Program, Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center, Kingstown Crossings, Lucy's Hearth, Providence Housing Authority, SSTARbirth, 'Tis the Season Coventry/West Greenwich, Town of East Greenwich Dept. of Human Services, Tri-Town Community Action Agency, and Welcome House of South County.

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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