

April 20, 2015

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BankRI Teaming Up with Books Are Wings to Host Book Drive & Swap at Warwick Mall on April 24

The Free, Two-Hour Event will also Feature Storytelling, Arts & Crafts and Face Painting

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Parents looking for a fun, educational activity to enjoy with their children during April school vacation need to look no further than Warwick Mall. On Friday, April 24, **Bank Rhode Island (BankRI)** and Books Are Wings will partner to host a book drive and book swap event at the Mall's center court from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The event is free and open to all, and comes on the heels of BankRI's month-long book drive throughout March.

During the event, members of the community are invited to bring their children and donate new and gently-used children's books. Kids will also have an opportunity to select a book of their own to bring home among other literacy-based activities.

The event will also feature storytelling by BankRI and Books Are Wings volunteers, a bookmark-making craft activity, face painting, and more.

Following the event, Books Are Wings, a local nonprofit that provides free books to children to help foster a love of reading, will distribute the donated books to kids in some of Rhode Island's neediest communities.

This year marks BankRI's 5th annual partnership with Books Are Wings. While book donations from this past March are still being tallied, Bank customers and staff have generously donated more than 7,000 books for local children since 2011.

PHOTO CAPTION

Image: BankRI_WarwickMall_BookEvent.JPG

Fostering a Love of Reading: BankRI and Books Are Wings will return to Warwick Mall to host a book drive and swap on April 24 from 11am to 1pm. During last year's event, which welcomed more than 50 families, children were read stories by volunteers, including Sarah Clausius-Parks, Branch Manager of BankRI's Downtown Providence location.

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 60 ATMs throughout Providence, Kent and Washington Counties. For more information, visit www.BANKRHODEISLAND.com.