



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **BankRI Sends \$7,500 in Funding to Programs that Support Local Youth**

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** – In support of programs that help youth, particularly school-age children, Bank Rhode Island (BankRI) recently provided \$7,500 in total funding to four local organizations. The charitable grants focus on work that aids low-income students and supports their day-to-day needs.

Those to receive funding are Angels Care Closet, Clothes to Kids Rhode Island, Operation Homefront, and Teach for America Rhode Island. The grants range from \$1,000 to \$2,500.

To help students and families struggling financially, **Angels Care Closet** provides school clothes and supplies, shoes, personal care items, and more in the communities of Central Falls, East Providence, Newport, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket. The organization also reaches families living in transitional housing programs such as McAuley Village, and foster children served by Foster Forward. BankRI’s grant helped to support its annual “Back-to-School” event, benefitting local children.

Targeting families in crisis and working closely with forty-five referring agencies, **Clothes to Kids Rhode Island** received funding in support of their efforts to provide free clothing, coats, shoes, socks and undergarments to school-age children in need living in Providence County. The organization is staffed entirely by volunteers and operates a storefront in Providence where families can “shop” by appointment for what they need.

“The pandemic not only changed the way students returned to school, it also created a new level of need among families who have struggled with the loss of a job or reduced hours at work,” said Mark J. Meiklejohn, President and CEO of BankRI. “It’s important to us that we support organizations that are working hard to provide relief to those who need it most, particularly when it comes to children and education.”

**Operation Homefront** helps to stabilize military families so they can thrive – and not struggle to get by – in the communities they work so hard to protect. Funding supported the organization’s ability to purchase greater numbers of backpacks and school supplies for its “Back to School Brigade” program, which has grown to provide assistance to children from 250 low-income military families.

**Teach for America Rhode Island** received a grant in support of its Learning and Training Program for educators. The effort provides coaching and instruction to teachers to strengthen both in-person and virtual lessons, and better respond to the emerging, urgent needs of students due to the ongoing health crisis.

### **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 40 ATMs throughout Providence, Kent, Newport and Washington Counties. For more information, visit [www.bankri.com](http://www.bankri.com). You can also find BankRI on [Facebook](#).

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