



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 25, 2017

Michael J. Cerio
Cerio Communications
(401) 743-8269
Michael@CerioCommunications.com

BankRI Branches Statewide to Begin 7-Week Food Drive on August 1

Food collected will benefit each branch’s partnering food pantry, remaining local to feed families in need

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – From Woonsocket to Wakefield and nearly everywhere in between, **Bank Rhode Island’s (BankRI)** 20 branches across the state will kick-off their annual food drive on Tuesday, August 1. The 7-week collection runs through Friday, September 22, and is organized to coincide with the Rhode Island Community Food Bank’s Summer Food Drive and a time of high need in the community.

For the effort, each BankRI branch has partnered with a food pantry that serves its community, ensuring the food collected at each location stays local to feed individuals and families in need. The strategic timing of the drive helps pantries meet the need they experience during late summer, when children lack access to the meals they receive during the academic year and summer feeding programs have ended.

“Food is the most basic need we all share; there is no reason anyone—particularly children—should have to worry about where their next meal will come from,” said Mark J. Meiklejohn, President and CEO of BankRI.

Beginning August 1, all BankRI locations will have collection bins placed in their lobbies to accept food donations. Most-needed items among the drive’s food pantry partners include: peanut butter, tuna, canned beans, whole wheat pasta, boxed macaroni & cheese, breakfast cereals, and canned fruits and vegetables. A list of BankRI branches and their respective pantry partner are as follows, with each pantry a member of the Food Bank’s emergency food program network.

Branch Location	Food Pantry
Coventry	Coventry Friends of Human Services
Cranston: Atwood Ave., Park Ave., Plainfield Pike	Comprehensive Community Action Program
East Greenwich	East Greenwich Interfaith Food Cupboard
E. Providence: Highland Ave., Taunton Ave.	East Bay Community Action Program
Johnston	Tri-Town Community Action Agency
Middletown	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center
North Kingstown	North Kingstown Food Pantry
Pawtucket	Blackstone Valley Emergency Food Center
Providence: East Side	Domestic Violence Program of Crossroads RI
Providence: Turks Head	Providence In-town Churches Association Food Pantry
Smithfield	St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry at St. Philip Church
Wakefield	Jonnycake Center of Peace Dale
Warwick: Buttonwoods, Centerville Rd., Warwick Ave.	Westbay Community Action Program
Woonsocket & Lincoln	Connecting for Children & Families

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Along with its branch food collections, BankRI will provide a \$4,500 grant to the Food Bank for the acquisition of additional food on behalf of each partnering food pantry.

As the state's largest hunger-relief organization, the Food Bank serves more than 59,000 Rhode Islanders each month through its network, a number that's nearly doubled since 2007.

To find the BankRI branch closest to you, please visit www.BankRI.com/locations.

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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