



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BankRI's Holiday Giving Tree Provides 1,481 Gifts to Local Children

Now in its 21st year, signature program partners with 16 nonprofits across the state to help brighten the season for underprivileged kids

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Proving true the old saying that it's better to give than to receive, **Bank Rhode Island (BankRI)** collected 1,481 gifts for children through its Holiday Giving Tree program thanks to the generosity of customers, members of the community, and its staff.

Now in its 21st year, the Holiday Giving Tree began the day after Thanksgiving as a way to help brighten the season for underprivileged kids served by BankRI's nonprofit partners throughout the state.

For nearly four weeks, each of the Bank's branches featured a Giving Tree in its lobby, decorated with ornaments that included the name and age of a child hoping for a special holiday gift. And each day a Giving Tree was on display, individuals and families selected ornaments, later returning to their branch to place gifts beneath the tree. By December 20, all of the presents were given to BankRI's nonprofit partners for distribution, ensuring they'd reach local children before the holiday.

"Our community and staff are extremely generous, and the response to this year's Holiday Giving Tree is representative of just how important it is to help others, especially children," said Mark J. Meiklejohn, President and CEO, BankRI. "Although the holidays aren't about gifts, the thoughtfulness behind the presents that will be opened by hundreds of children captures the true spirit of the season."

BankRI's nonprofit partners for its 21st annual "Holiday Giving Tree" program are: Adoption Rhode Island, Aids Care Ocean State, Boys & Girls Club of Warwick, Community Care Alliance, Comprehensive Community Action Program, Connecting for Children & Families, Domestic Violence Program of Crossroads Rhode Island, East Bay Community Action Program, Kingstown Crossings, Lucy's Hearth, Providence Housing Authority, SSTARbirth, 'Tis the Season Coventry/West Greenwich, Town of East Greenwich Department of Human Services, Tri-County 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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