



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BankRI Kicking-Off Annual “*Holiday Giving Tree*” Program Early to Help Brighten Season for Local Kids

Community invited to safely spread cheer by donating gifts that will be distributed to underprivileged children statewide through BankRI’s nonprofit partners

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Recognizing the need in its community and the many families struggling due to the ongoing pandemic, **Bank Rhode Island (BankRI)** will begin its annual “*Holiday Giving Tree*” program early in hopes of brightening the season for as many local children as possible. The signature effort, now in its 23rd year, collects gifts for underprivileged kids that are distributed statewide by the bank’s nonprofit partners.

As a result of COVID-19, BankRI has made adjustments to this year’s program, and its branches are operating with health and safety guidelines in place to help keep customers and staff safe.

Beginning Monday, November 2, each of BankRI’s 20 branches will display a “*Holiday Giving Tree*” in its lobby, decorated with ornaments featuring the name, age, and holiday wish of a child served by that branch’s nonprofit partner. During the multi-week effort, customers and members of the community are invited to visit a branch to select an ornament and provide a gift for that child. Those interested in helping may also [call](#) their local branch to request ornament information by phone if they prefer.

Once a gift has been purchased, donors may return to their branch to deliver the unwrapped present. BankRI understands its community’s concerns amid COVID-19, and is offering alternatives to safely deliver gifts. Donors may also call their branch to schedule a curbside drop-off where bank staff will retrieve the donated present from the trunk of the vehicle. Branch phone numbers can be found [online](#). Those who wish to enter a branch to place their gift beneath the tree must wear a face covering, and will be greeted by an employee at the entrance. The greeter will confirm identification and ask basic questions about COVID-19 and travel. Social distancing is required, and anyone not feeling well is asked to stay home.

“With nearly every aspect of our lives impacted by the pandemic, we were committed to making sure we could safely continue our holiday program and lift the spirits of kids at a time they may need it most,” said Mark J. Meiklejohn, President and CEO of BankRI. “We realize families have been hit hard and providing gifts this year may be a challenge, so we want everyone to know our staff is ready to make participating as safe and easy as possible.”

To reach children in-need, BankRI has partnered with 16 nonprofits who will distribute the gifts in time for the December holiday. In 2019, the effort led to 1,466 gifts for children statewide.

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Nonprofit partners of BankRI's 23rd annual "Holiday Giving Tree" include:

- ❖ Adoption Rhode Island
- ❖ Boys & Girls Clubs of Warwick
- ❖ Comprehensive Community Action Program
- ❖ Connecting for Children & Families
- ❖ East Bay Community Action Program
- ❖ Lucy's Hearth
- ❖ SSTARbirth
- ❖ Tri-County Community Action Agency
- ❖ Aids Care Ocean State
- ❖ Christmas Is
- ❖ Community Care Alliance
- ❖ CrossroadsRI: Domestic Violence Program
- ❖ Kingstown Crossings
- ❖ Providence Housing Authority
- ❖ Town of Lincoln Holiday Basket Program
- ❖ Welcome House of South County

For BankRI branch locations and hours of operation, 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 40 ATMs throughout Providence, Kent, Newport and Washington Counties. For more information, visit www.bankri.com. You can also find BankRI on [Facebook](#).

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