



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **December Holiday Comes Early for Children in Need Thanks to BankRI, Generosity of Community**

*18<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Giving Tree Collects Nearly 1,400 Gifts for Hundreds of Local Kids*

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** – December 25 came early for hundreds of local children thanks to **Bank Rhode Island's (BankRI)** "Holiday Giving Tree" program and an outpouring of generosity from the community, Bank customers and staff. Over the course of three weeks, nearly 1,400 gifts were collected for underprivileged kids throughout the state.

Bicycles, Lego sets, dolls, board games, action figures, sports equipment and remote control cars were just some of the gifts donated by individuals wanting to help brighten the holiday season for young people in need. Beginning the Friday after Thanksgiving, each BankRI branch displayed a Holiday Giving Tree decorated with the wishes of children served by that branch's nonprofit partner. Community members, Bank customers and staff then selected ornaments to grant children's holiday wishes, returning to place the gifts beneath the Holiday Giving Tree.

Gifts were picked up by BankRI's nonprofit partners and distributed in advance of December 22.

"Few things are more touching at this time of year than seeing a child's face light up when they're given a special gift for the holidays," said Mark J. Meiklejohn, President and CEO of BankRI. "And thanks to the generosity of so many across our communities, children who otherwise may not have received a present were able to experience the joy of the season while knowing others are thinking of them."

Nonprofit partners of BankRI's 18<sup>th</sup> annual Holiday Giving Tree include: Adoption Rhode Island, Aids Care Ocean State, Community Care Alliance, Connecting for Children and Families, East Bay Community Action Program, House of Hope, Kingstown Crossings, SSTARBIRTH, 'Tis the Season Coventry/West Greenwich, Town of East Greenwich Department of Human Services, Tri-Town Community Action, Welcome House of South County, and Women's Center of Rhode Island.

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

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