



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Inaugural Golf Camp for Inner-City Youth gets BankRI Grant, Volunteer Support**

*125 underserved kids receive opportunity to learn the basics of golf and the game's important life lessons*

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** – Some 125 kids from Providence are hitting the links this summer to learn the basics of golf and the game's life lessons, participating in Button Hole's inaugural camp for urban youth. The six-week program began on July 1 and has received support from **Bank Rhode Island (BankRI)** through a \$2,500 charitable grant and bank employees volunteering daily to help with instruction and coaching. BankRI volunteers also spend time each day leading groups through a career exploration discussion.

"We share Button Hole's commitment to providing children with opportunities they may otherwise not have," said Mark J. Meiklejohn, President and CEO of BankRI. "It's a great effort to support, and I'm particularly pleased to see so many of our team members volunteer as mentors and give of their time."

Each day, youth attend camp from 9:00 a.m. to approximately noon and enjoy a program designed to make golf accessible and teach them basic skills. The program also emphasizes the game as a way to learn life's lessons of etiquette, honesty, and perseverance while gaining respect for the environment. Instruction – with assistance from BankRI volunteers company-wide – covers everything from the fundamentals of grip, stance and posture, to driving, the short game, and play on the course.

At the end of camp, youth will be given a 'test' to demonstrate what they've learned. Passing the test makes the camper a "Button Hole Kid," and they'll be allowed to come back and play the course for \$1 or hit a bucket of balls for \$1 until the age of seventeen.

"Thanks to BankRI's support, Button Hole has expanded its golf instruction program to youth from the Boys & Girls Clubs of Providence, and Providence Recreation Center this summer," said Don Wright, Executive Director of Button Hole. "This program, 'A lesson in golf... a lesson in life,' combines golf with vocational mentoring from bank volunteers, which is a win-win for the kids."

### **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 45 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 at [www.facebook.com/BankRhodeIsland](https://www.facebook.com/BankRhodeIsland).

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