



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **BankRI Sends \$5,500 in Charitable Grants to 3 Pawtucket Organizations**

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** – Three Pawtucket-based organizations that work with youth and families on education, healthy living, and to provide basic supports have been awarded a total of \$5,500 in charitable grants by Bank Rhode Island (BankRI). The organizations that received funding are **Junior Achievement of Rhode Island, The Empowerment Factory, and YMCA of Pawtucket.**

The charitable grants are already having an impact in the city, helping to support both current programming and initiatives set to begin in the fall.

At the YMCA of Pawtucket, BankRI’s grant is supporting the Grab ‘n Go meal program, in which boxes of nonperishable meals are available to local families. With many in the community struggling amid the health pandemic, the program has grown to reach some 200 families. Additionally, the funding is helping the Y’s efforts to provide personal need and baby items to those in need, along with offering virtual classes.

“Responding to basic human needs has always been core to the mission of the YMCA,” said Charlie Clifford, CEO, YMCA of Pawtucket. “And right now, the need in our community is unprecedented. We are so grateful that BankRI stands with us in supporting those most at risk.”

Junior Achievement of Rhode Island has received funding to deliver financial literacy programs during the upcoming academic year. Programs are developed for both in-person and virtual learning, with students in Pawtucket, Central Falls, Providence and Woonsocket being introduced to the importance of how smart choices about education, career and saving today can lead to a strong financial future.

Blending social emotional learning with environmental education, The Empowerment Factory is using its grant to deliver its Healthy Living Community Adventure curriculum. The program engages participants in healthy habits through virtual learning, creativity and beautification projects while social distancing.

“Nonprofits, especially right now, are a lifeline for our communities in so many ways, and the commitment these organizations have to their Pawtucket neighbors is a perfect example of just that,” said Mark J. Meiklejohn, President and CEO of BankRI. “This is a community where we not only have a professional presence, but also where we have personal connections – we’re pleased to be able to support some of the great work happening across the city and beyond.”

### **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](http://www.bankri.com). You can also find BankRI on [Facebook](#).

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