



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Pawtucket Nonprofits among Organizations to Receive Grants from BankRI**

*Art Connection Rhode Island, Blackstone Valley Emergency Food Center, and  
Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket receive funding*

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** – Bank Rhode Island (BankRI) has sent a total of \$6,000 in grants to three Pawtucket-based nonprofits in support of their work with local families and children. The organizations to receive funding are **Art Connection Rhode Island**, **Blackstone Valley Emergency Food Center**, and the **Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket**. The grants were among funds recently awarded by the bank to 42 nonprofits statewide.

Funding to Art Connection Rhode Island is helping the organization deliver its art workshops program to children ages 6-12, held at the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket. The multi-week program began on February 1 and introduces youth to sketching, painting, and two- and three-dimension art. Participating children have been split into two groups, with each group attending at a different time in recognition of health and safety guidelines. BankRI's support covers the stipend for the artist/teacher, and the costs of art supplies.

At the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket, BankRI is supporting the club's Out-Of-School Time Education program and its transformation amid the pandemic. Where the program would ordinarily serve some 300 youth daily after school, it has transitioned to full day programming to meet the educational needs of up to 120 students, ages 5 to 12. Following strict health and safety guidelines, students are placed in grade-based pods, with club staff assisting youth with distance learning and homework. At the end of the school day, youth have access to indoor and outdoor activities in a safe environment.

For the Blackstone Valley Emergency Food Center, its grant allowed for the purchase of additional food items needed most by those who seek help. The center, located at 75 Benefit Street, serves residents of Pawtucket, and nearby Central Falls, Cumberland, and Lincoln. Open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings until 11:30 a.m. three weeks per month. Following safety guidelines, 3 clients are allowed inside at one time to personally select the non-perishable and perishable foods they need. On average, more than 100 families turn to the center for help in a single week – a number drastically higher than one year ago. Food donations from the community are welcome, and the center can be reached at (401) 724-7170.

"There remains tremendous need among Rhode Islanders, and nothing is more important than food and ensuring our children are learning and engaged in programs that help them grow," said Mark J. Meiklejohn, President and CEO of BankRI. "Pawtucket is a community we are deeply committed to and are grateful to the organizations working hard every day to help their neighbors."

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### **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](#).*