



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**BankRI Awards Charitable Grant to Pawtucket Soup Kitchen for Food Acquisition**

*In the last year, the soup kitchen has served more than 43,000 meals, nearly tripling the amount it provided just seven years ago*

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** – As the Pawtucket Soup Kitchen continues through what has become its busiest time of the year, the nonprofit has been awarded a \$500 charitable grant by **Bank Rhode Island (BankRI)** for the purchase of additional food to help keep up with the community’s needs.

Located at 195 Walcott Street and founded in 1992, the Pawtucket Soup Kitchen’s work has grown significantly over the past two decades in response to the need for food assistance in Pawtucket and the surrounding communities. What began as a lunch delivery program has since evolved to feature the serving of a full breakfast and dinner each weekday, and a Saturday morning brunch service. The organization also operates an Outreach Program, in which it provides lunch daily to homeless families and individuals served by ACCESS-RI, as well as providing dinner seven days a week and a Sunday breakfast to the homeless who stay at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church Emergency Shelter in Pawtucket.

In the last year alone, the Pawtucket Soup Kitchen served more than 43,000 unduplicated meals to its neighbors in need, nearly triple the meals the organization provided as recently as 2010. And although the soup kitchen is located in Pawtucket, all are welcome – with a number of guests coming from nearby Central Falls, Cumberland, East Providence and Lincoln for help. The Pawtucket Soup Kitchen remains the only meal site in the Blackstone Valley area to be open six days per week and serving two meals daily.

“When we learned of the needs of the Pawtucket Soup Kitchen and the growing lines of people seeking food assistance, we knew we had to help restock their shelves,” said Mark J. Meiklejohn, President and CEO of BankRI. “At BankRI, we’re wholly committed to giving back to the communities where we live and work, and there is no need that we all share more important than food – no one should ever have to worry about where their next meal will come from.”

**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 55 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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