



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **BankRI Awards Grants to Pawtucket, Woonsocket Organizations**

*Empowerment Factory and Stadium Theatre receive funding to deliver programming to underserved youth*

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** – Two Blackstone Valley nonprofits whose work focuses on providing local, underserved youth with access to the performing arts and developing the skills that help them succeed in the classroom and in life have been awarded charitable grants by Bank Rhode Island (BankRI).

The Empowerment Factory in Pawtucket has been awarded \$1,500 in support of advancing its Social Emotional Learning curriculum, which the organization brings into area schools and after school programs. In Woonsocket, Stadium Theatre received \$3,000 to fund its Imagination Series and offer access to shows for youth who otherwise may never experience the joys of a live performance.

“We strive to make a positive impact in the communities where we have a presence, and these organizations provide tremendous programming for kids across Pawtucket and Woonsocket,” said Mark J. Meiklejohn, President and CEO, BankRI. “In supporting their efforts, we’re helping to make sure children of all different ages have a chance to broaden the interests and skills that are important to their futures.”

One of its flagship community programs, Stadium Theatre’s Imagination Series provides live, daytime performances for youth who attend Woonsocket’s Title 1 schools, offering an opportunity to develop an appreciation for the arts. The series features 10 shows for the 2019-2020 season and is geared for students in kindergarten through grade 12. BankRI’s support will provide admission scholarships for 300 local kids.

For The Empowerment Factory, the BankRI grant will help to fund its Creative Squad Social Emotional Learning and Literacy Program curriculum through purchasing books, materials, and specialized workbooks. The program serves elementary age youth – the majority of who live in low-income households – at several schools, including Elizabeth Baldwin and Fallon Memorial elementary schools. The program focuses on developing creativity, self-esteem, and civic pride through hands-on activities and teaching vital soft skills.

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

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