



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BankRI Awards \$94,750 in Charitable Grants to Nonprofits Statewide

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – In support of nonprofits helping Rhode Islanders in every corner of the state, Bank Rhode Island (BankRI) recently awarded \$94,750 in grants. The funding was provided to 38 organizations statewide, with grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,500.

Sojourner House, which works with victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking and has seen the need for services increase sharply over the past year, is among those to receive a grant. As the pandemic wore on, calls to the organization's crisis line skyrocketed as victims lacked access to family and friends and felt trapped at home. According to Sojourner House, research shows that incidence of domestic violence increase in times of crisis as abusers feel an additional loss of control and respond with more abuse. BankRI's grant will be used for crisis support for survivors and to help meet their immediate needs.

"The pandemic forced many victims in their homes, and in a lot of cases, that home was not a safe one," said Vanessa Volz, Executive Director of Sojourner House. "We don't always know from victim to victim what they'll need most to help them achieve safety, which makes funding like BankRI's so important to providing critical services. We can't do this work without our community."

Another organization to receive funding is Clothes to Kids RI, which provides new and quality used clothing to low-income, in-crisis school-age children. The organization invites children referred by a community partner, such as a school or nonprofit agency, to 'shop' for a full week's wardrobe twice per year. Since 2016, Clothes to Kids RI has provided more than 8,000 wardrobes – free of charge – to students in 142 schools in 16 communities across Providence County. The organization will use its grant to purchase clothing in special sizes and to meet specific child needs.

"After a slowdown during COVID and distance learning, we've recently seen a tremendous increase among families that are struggling and feel overwhelmed," said Eva-Marie Mancuso, the CEO and co-founder of Clothes to Kids RI, Inc. "These aren't just bags of leftover clothes that are handed out; it's an experience for kids that helps them attend school with the confidence and self-esteem they need to succeed."

Mark J. Meiklejohn, BankRI's President and CEO, added, "It is clear that many Rhode Islanders continue to struggle in their daily lives and that is particularly true of those helped by our grantee organizations. The work of nonprofits remains vital to the well-being of our neighbors and deserving of our support."

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A complete list of funded organizations is as follows:

Aids Care Ocean State	Amos House	AS220
Back to School Celebration	Breakthrough Providence	Button Hole
City of Pawtucket	Clothes to Kids RI, Inc.	Community Boating Center
Community Preparatory School	Domestic Violence Resource Center of South County	Empowerment Factory
Grow Smart Rhode Island	Festival Ballet Providence	Fox Point Boys & Girls Club Alumni Association
Island Moving Company	John E. Fogarty Foundation	Jonnycake Center for Hope
Junior Achievement of Rhode Island	Narragansett Historical Society	Operation Home Front
Operation Stand Down Rhode Island	Pawtucket Foundation	Prout School
Providence After School Alliance	Providence Preservation Society	Reach Out and Read Rhode Island
Read to Succeed	Rhode Island Bankers Association	Rhode Island College Alumni Association
Rhode Island Free Clinic	Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association	Rhode Island Write On Sports
Sargent Rehabilitation Center	Sojourner House	Star Kids Scholarship Program
Special Olympics Rhode Island	Wolf School	

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 30 ATMs throughout Providence, Kent, Newport and Washington Counties. For more information, visit www.bankri.com. You can also find BankRI on [Facebook](#).

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