



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 21, 2020

Michael J. Cerio

Cerio Communications

(401) 743-8269

[Michael@CerioCommunications.com](mailto:Michael@CerioCommunications.com)

## **Youth Organizations Awarded \$20,000 in Grants by BankRI**

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** – Organizations whose work provides arts and education opportunities for low-income youth have received funds from **Bank Rhode Island (BankRI)** in support of summer and fall programming. In all, eight nonprofits have been awarded a total of \$20,000 in charitable grants.

The funded organizations are: Center for Dynamic Learning, Community Boating Center, Community Preparatory School, Everett Company Stage & School, Junior Achievement of Rhode Island, Meeting Street, Providence After School Alliance, and The Empowerment Factory. Grants range from \$1,500 to \$5,000.

“Our state’s nonprofit community, and particularly organizations that serve children, face challenges as they continue to adapt to a new environment amid the ongoing health crisis,” said Mark J. Meiklejohn, President and CEO of BankRI. “At the same time, their work has never been more important to the kids who have lacked access to programs in recent months and missed opportunities to learn and play with their peers.”

**Providence After School Alliance** received funding to support local youth attending its July summer camp, consisting of a hybrid of small group and virtual programs. The effort provided students with both project-based and interactive activities designed to foster creativity while re-energizing and preparing participants for the upcoming academic year.

**Community Boating Center, Community Preparatory School, and Everett Company Stage & School** will utilize their grants for scholarships and to cover tuition costs for underprivileged children participating in their programs. With Everett Company, youth are offered the opportunity to find their artistic passions through performance groups, choreography, photography, video and video editing. Through the Community Boating Center, students participate in Sailing Through Science, ECO Adventure, and Family Free! programs.

At the **Center for Dynamic Learning**, BankRI’s grant will support students in art/design, construction, and engineering activities. Additionally, the organization will engage youth as a COVID Community Response Team, providing PPE, cleaning supplies, and addressing small item home repairs. Participants will receive a modest stipend for their service and 3 college credits for the academic components of working with a professional engineer to design an “off grid” home using a 40’ storage container.

**Meeting Street’s** grant benefits its Summer Backpack Program, which provides backpacks filled with books, literacy games and activity sheets to more than 50 low-income Providence students, ages 3–4, enrolled in the school’s pre-K program for this coming fall. The educational effort was developed to increase family engagement in children’s reading and numeracy development.

Blending social emotional learning with environmental education, **The Empowerment Factory** will use 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.

**-MORE-**

For **Junior Achievement of Rhode Island**, funding supports financial literacy programs for the upcoming academic year. Students in Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket will learn that a strong financial future requires making smart choices about education, career, saving and investing.

**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](#).

###