



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**BankRI to Kick-Off Annual “Giving Tree” Program to  
Collect Holiday Gifts for Local Children on Friday, November 23**

*To help brighten the season for underprivileged kids, gifts collected will be distributed through  
BankRI’s nonprofit partners statewide*

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** – With the holidays upon us, **Bank Rhode Island (BankRI)** is getting ready to help brighten the season for underprivileged children across the state with the launch of its 21<sup>st</sup> annual “Holiday Giving Tree” program on Friday, November 23. The signature effort is BankRI’s longest-running community initiative.

Beginning the day after Thanksgiving, all BankRI branches will feature a “Holiday Giving Tree” in its lobby, decorated with ornaments featuring the name, age and holiday wish of children served by that branch’s nonprofit partner. Throughout the multi-week effort, customers and community members are invited to visit their local branch to select an ornament and grant that child’s holiday wish by providing a gift. Donors may return to the branch with their unwrapped gift to be placed under the tree. BankRI has partnered with 16 nonprofits to spread holiday cheer this season. The Bank hopes to exceed the more than 1,500 gifts collected during last year’s “Holiday Giving Tree” program.

“As special as the holidays are, they also are a reminder of the challenges some of our neighbors face to provide gifts when they’re struggling to make ends meet,” said Mark J. Meiklejohn, President and CEO of BankRI. “Historically, our customers and staff respond generously each year which underscores what this season is really all about – a time to give back and to help others.”

BankRI’s nonprofit partners for its 21<sup>st</sup> annual “Holiday Giving Tree” program are: Adoption Rhode Island, Aids Care Ocean State, Boys & Girls Club of Warwick, Community Care Alliance, Comprehensive Community Action Program, Connecting for Children & Families, Domestic Violence Program of Crossroads Rhode Island, East Bay Community Action Program, Kingstown Crossings, Lucy’s Hearth, Providence Housing Authority, SSTARbirth, 'Tis the Season Coventry/West Greenwich, Town of East Greenwich Department of Human Services, Tri-County Community Action Agency, and Welcome House of South County.

To find BankRI branch locations and their hours of operation, please visit [www.bankri.com/locations](http://www.bankri.com/locations).

**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](http://www.Facebook.com/BankRhodeIsland).

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