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Michael J. Cerio | Cerio Communications
(401) 743-8269
Michael@CerioCommunications.com

Targeting Basic Needs, Education, and Health, BankRI Grants \$64,150 to Nonprofits

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Twenty-two local nonprofits have been awarded a total of \$64,150 in charitable grants by Bank Rhode Island (BankRI). The funding, which focuses on supporting human services, education, and health initiatives will impact residents statewide with grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,500.

As food insecurity remains an issue for tens of thousands of Rhode Islanders, **Farm Fresh Rhode Island** received \$5,000 for its Bonus Bucks program. The effort helps low-income families double their buying power of nutritious, locally-grown foods at farmers markets while simultaneously supporting the state’s small farm businesses.

“This grant is important to families eager to stretch their monthly benefits and bring as much nutritious food as possible into their homes. It’s an incredible incentive to promote healthy eating,” said Thea Upham, Director of Programs and Operations for Farm Fresh RI. “We’ve seen a tremendous increase in people turning to farmers markets to shop, and the impact of Bonus Bucks is a large part of that.”

With Bonus Bucks, individuals receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits identify the amount they would like to spend at a farmers market, swipe their EBT card for that amount, and Farm Fresh doubles it using special market tokens for food purchasing. The organization facilitates the Bonus Bucks program at 22 farmers markets in the state, including at its own year-round market in Providence. On average, families receive \$20 to \$25 in Bonus Bucks redemptions per shopping experience.

Other organizations to receive funding include **Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation** for its Gloria’s Angels meal delivery program for patients undergoing cancer treatment; **Teach for America** in support of educational equity; and **Operation Stand Down Rhode Island** to fund essential services for veterans and their families. A complete list of grantees is below.

“Helping our community during difficult times is not only important to all of us at BankRI, it’s the right thing to do,” said Mark J. Meiklejohn, BankRI’s President and CEO. “The work of local nonprofits touches thousands of lives and we want to ensure they have the resources their programs need.”

AccessPoint RI	American Cancer Society: RI Chapter	Angels’ Care Closet	Art Connection Rhode Island
Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket	Clinica Esperanza/Hope Clinic	College Visions	Connecting for Children & Families
David Louis Cunha Foundation	Farm Fresh Rhode Island	FirstWorks	Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation

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Good Neighbors	Nonviolence Institute	Operation Stand Down Rhode Island	Prout School
Rhode Island Ovarian Cancer Alliance	Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra and Music School	Senior Agenda Coalition of Rhode Island	Teach for America
United Way of Rhode Island	Warren Heritage Foundation		

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.

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