



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The BankRI Children’s Book Drive Returns to all Branches throughout March

*Offering drop-off and virtual donation options, month-long effort helps
Books Are Wings put free books in the hands of children across Rhode Island*

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – In recognition of March as National Reading Month and its commitment to childhood literacy, Bank Rhode Island (BankRI) is kicking off its annual children’s book drive. The month-long effort to benefit Books Are Wings runs throughout March at all 20 of the Bank’s [branch locations](#), with both drop-off and [virtual donation](#) options offered.

“It’s impossible to overstate how generous our community is when it comes to our book drive, and what that support means to the work of Books Are Wings,” said Patricia O’Donnell-Saracino, VP of Community Relations for BankRI. “Every single book is important – we’d love to see this be our biggest collection yet.”

This marks the 12th year BankRI has partnered with the Pawtucket-based [Books Are Wings](#); a nonprofit whose unique programs put 62,353 free books in the hands of Rhode Island kids last year alone. Books collected during the BankRI drive will support programs for Pre-K to Grade 5 children. Specifically, they will benefit the new *Tale Mail* initiative for preschoolers and the *Read to 100 Challenge* for school-age kids.

For the drive, all BankRI branches have a marked collection bin in its foyer or in front of its entrance doors to accept donations of new and gently-used children’s books. There is also the option to participate virtually by purchasing a book from an online Wish List of titles curated by Books Are Wings. The Wish List can be accessed at BooksAreWings.org/donate-books.

Books Are Wings’ *Tale Mail* program provides families with high-quality literature and interactive learning activities to help extend literacy learning from school to home. It partners with early learning centers and preschool programs to supply books and literacy-based crafts that are shared with families. With the **Read to 100 Challenge**, the organization challenges students to collectively read 100 books as a classroom, as many times as they can, over the school year. Books Are Wings provides all materials, including the books and ‘tracking’ posters. Classrooms that meet the goal get a special book party celebration.

For a list of BankRI branches, their addresses and hours of operation, visit bankri.com/locations.

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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.