



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 29, 2022

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

BankRI Sends \$25,000 to Food Programs Statewide

Bank provides funding to the RI Community Food Bank for food acquisition, and awards grants to 15 community-based food pantries

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – With the late summer traditionally a time of high need among Rhode Islanders struggling with hunger and now made worse by the rising costs of groceries, Bank Rhode Island (BankRI) has sent a total of \$25,000 in funding to food programs across the state. The bank has provided \$10,000 to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, as well as \$15,000 in grants to a group of community-based food pantries. The financial support comes in addition to BankRI having recently hosted a six-week food collection drive in all 20 of its branches.

“Fighting hunger is an important cause for all of us at BankRI, and we know this year has been extremely difficult for families who were already stretched thin at the market,” said Mark J. Meiklejohn, BankRI’s President and CEO. “We wanted to provide more support this summer – at both the state level and in our communities – and thank everyone who joined in to help our neighbors put food on their tables.”

As the Food Bank is serving more than 59,000 people each month through its network of emergency food programs and the latest hunger statistics show 1 in 6 Rhode Island households to be food insecure, BankRI’s donation will help the organization acquire and distribute enough healthy, culturally relevant food to keep up with the high level of need in the community. The Food Bank hopes to distribute 15 million pounds of food this year, which is 30 percent more than before the pandemic.

“Bank Rhode Island has been a tremendous partner to the Food Bank for many years and has generously increased its support as we’ve responded to the economic fallout of the pandemic,” said Food Bank CEO Andrew Schiff. “As we too face the high costs of food and fuel due to inflation, the grants given to the Food Bank and some of our partner agencies will help ensure we have the resources to purchase and distribute the essential foods needed in our community. We’re so grateful to the Bank and its customers for supporting our work.”

At the community level, both with its in-branch food collections and grants, each BankRI location in the state partnered with a local food pantry to ensure they’re helping area residents. Along with receiving the food collected by its partner branch, the following 15 pantries each also received \$1,000 for the purchase of their most needed items.

Better Lives Rhode Island (<i>Providence</i>)	Blackstone Valley Emergency Food Center (<i>Pawtucket</i>)	Comprehensive Community Action Program (<i>Cranston</i>)
Connecting for Children & Families (<i>Woonsocket</i>)	Coventry Friends of Human Services	Domestic Violence Program of Crossroads Rhode Island

-MORE-

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center (<i>Newport</i>)	East Bay Community Action	East Greenwich Interfaith Food Cupboard
Jonnycake Center for Hope (<i>Wakefield</i>)	North Kingstown Food Pantry	St. Peter's by the Sea (<i>Narragansett</i>)
St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry at St. Philip Church (<i>Smithfield</i>)	Tri-County Community Action Agency (<i>Johnston</i>)	Westbay Community Action (<i>Warwick</i>)

###

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.