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BankRI Awards \$95,100 in Grants to Rhode Island Nonprofits

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – In its most recent support of the state’s nonprofit sector and the services they provide Rhode Islanders, Bank Rhode Island (BankRI) has awarded \$95,100 in charitable grants. The funding was received by 36 organizations statewide and supports programs that address hunger and food insecurity, youth education and early childhood literacy, emergency needs, and more.

“When Rhode Islanders find themselves in a position of need, they often turn first to their community-based nonprofit for help, and it’s imperative that these organizations have the resources to deliver services,” said **Will Tsonos**, BankRI’s president and CEO. “Supporting this work remains a priority of BankRI, and we are grateful for the difference our local nonprofits make each and every day.”

Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation is among the grantee organizations. They received \$3,500 in support of its Gloria’s Angels Meals Program, with BankRI’s funding covering the cost of meals for the remainder of the year. Through the program, nutritious, ready-to-eat meals are delivered to cancer patients undergoing treatment and their families. Demand for the program has increased substantially over the past two years, and the organization anticipates providing another 500 meals by the end of December. According to the National Cancer Institute, eating healthy before and after a treatment is critical to sustaining patients’ blood count and to retaining body tissue.

“There are many factors that impact people’s ability to eat well during treatment – patients are often too weak or sick to prepare the meals their body needs, especially if they’re on a specialized diet, and there are the financial burdens of receiving cancer care,” said **Bryan Sawyer**, Chief Operating Officer for Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation. “We all have someone in our lives who has been affected by cancer, and BankRI’s support is making a real difference at a time families need it most.”

With a focus on closing the education gap among students of color in Rhode Island’s core cities and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, **Teach for America Rhode Island** received a \$2,500 grant for its innovative teacher training program. The initiative works to create a local pipeline of teachers by recruiting individuals from diverse colleges and universities, training them by way of an AmeriCorps award and then funneling that talent to the Ocean State.

“The teacher workforce in our state needs to reflect the students we teach, and nowhere is that more important than in our core cities,” said **Michael Broschart**, Executive Director of Teach for America RI. “In a state where just six percent of our teacher population identify as a person of color, educator diversity needs to be more of a priority.”

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A complete list of the organizations to be awarded grants by BankRI is as follows:

- AccessPoint RI
- AIDS Care Ocean State
- Button Hole Golf
- Community Boating Center
- Community Care Alliance
- Connecting for Children & Families
- David Louis Cunha Foundation
- Entrepreneurship for All
- Everett Company Stage School
- FirstWorks
- Genesis Center
- Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation
- Good Neighbors Soup Kitchen & Food Pantry
- Grow Smart Rhode Island
- Juanita Sanchez Educational Complex
- Lincoln School
- Looking Upwards
- Newport Public Library
- Providence Preservation Society
- Read to Succeed
- Rhode Island Assisted Living Association
- Rhode Island Center for the Book
- Rhode Island Coalition to End Homelessness
- Rhode Island Hockey Hall of Fame
- Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council
- Rhode Island Write On Sports
- Riverzedge Arts
- Scholarship Foundation of East Providence
- South Kingstown Land Trust
- Special Olympics Rhode Island
- Stadium Theatre
- Teach for America Rhode Island
- The Steel Yard
- Thundermist Health Center
- United Way of RI
- Warren Heritage Foundation

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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.