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BankRI Awards \$93,000 in Grants to Rhode Island Nonprofits

Building Works, an innovative workforce and education pilot program of Providence Preservation Society, is among the more than 20 funded initiatives

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – In support of local nonprofits and the services they provide Rhode Islanders and the state’s communities, Bank Rhode Island (BankRI) has awarded \$93,000 in grants to organizations. The grants have been received by a total of twenty-eight nonprofits, with a particular focus on supporting programs in the areas of education, human services, and the arts.

Providence Preservation Society (PPS) is among the organizations to be awarded a grant in support of its Partners in Preservation and Building Works programs. **Building Works** is a pilot initiative of the organization and builds upon its track record of workforce development – specifically, addressing the shortfall of skilled tradespeople – and educating homeowners.

With Building Works, PPS provides low- to moderate-income Providence-area residents with paid preservation trades and job readiness training, along with on-the-job experience and employment support. Many older buildings in Providence have grown unsafe due to a combination of the severe shortage of people with the proper skills to repair and maintain them, and the economic burden to residents and landlords of such work. Additionally, Building Works assists residents living in historic homes in Providence, educating them on how to address and fix certain issues themselves. Providence’s housing stock is among the oldest in the country, leading to increased problems with ventilation, lead paint, electrical systems, and accessibility. Funding from BankRI will help to offset the cost of the program for participants.

“Housing is the biggest issue facing our state and in order to move the needle, preserving existing homes is as important as creating new ones – this is about empowering people with the tools to succeed,” said **Brent Runyon, Executive Director of PPS**. “It takes a tremendous amount of resources to get a program like this off the ground. We are thrilled to call BankRI a partner and to have their support.”

“As with all of our charitable community investments, we want to support programs that meet both the immediate needs of our neighbors and foster long-term success. I respect the tenacity nonprofits bring to our state and the difference they make in Rhode Islanders’ quality of life,” said **Will Tsonos, President and CEO of BankRI**.

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The full list of nonprofits to be awarded grants by BankRI is as follows:

- Adoption Rhode Island
- Art Connection
- AS220
- Back to School Rhode Island
- Bryant University
- Community College of Rhode Island
- Contemporary Theater Company
- Dorcas International Institute of RI
- Friends Way
- Gateways to Change
- Inspiring Minds
- John E. Fogarty Foundation
- New Urban Arts
- Operation Stand Down Rhode Island
- Pawtucket Central Falls Development
- Providence Preservation Society
- Providence Public Library
- Rhode Island Black Film Festival
- Rhode Island Coalition to End Homelessness
- Rhode Island Hospital Foundation
- Rhode Island PBS
- Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra & Music School
- Scholarship Foundation of East Providence
- Sophia Academy
- The Church of Saint Michael the Archangel
- The Miriam Hospital Foundation
- The Prout School
- Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council

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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.