



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Children’s Book Drive Sets New High Mark, Leading to 9,916 Titles to Support Books Are Wings Programs

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The results of Bank Rhode Island’s (BankRI) recent Children’s Book Drive are in and the number is higher than any previous year. Thanks to an outpouring of generosity by the community, the effort led to 9,916 books to support [Books Are Wings](#) programs.

BankRI held its 13th Annual Children’s Book Drive throughout March – coinciding with National Reading Month – at each of its 20 branches. This year, three branches set new records with their individual collections. The Lincoln branch collected 2,311; the Highland Avenue branch in East Providence generated 1,649; and Wakefield collected 1,230. In addition to being able to drop off donated books at any BankRI location, members of the community supported the drive virtually by purchasing from Books Are Wings’ online Amazon Wish List.

The Pawtucket-based literacy organization will sort and prepare the books for distribution to local children through both its school-based and summer reading outreach in Rhode Island’s core communities. Annually, Books Are Wings puts more than 62,000 free books into the hands of schoolchildren.

“This is one of the largest annual drives held on our behalf. To have this year’s drive generate more books than ever before is simply amazing – the need is absolutely there,” said Jennifer Smith, Executive Director of Books Are Wings. “It takes a village to be able to offer the programs we do; fortunately, we have a great partnership with BankRI and their customers. We really can’t thank everyone enough for their kindness.”

“It’s incredible to see our community – our customers and staff – rally together around a cause as vital as helping children have access to books,” said Will Tsonos, BankRI’s President and CEO. “The work of Books Are Wings is so important, particularly their focus on keeping our youth actively reading during the summer months to combat learning loss.”

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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.