



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 20, 2023

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BankRI Sends \$77,200 in Grant Funding to Local Nonprofits

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Bank Rhode Island (BankRI) awarded grants to twenty-eight local nonprofits, investing \$77,200 in programs to support Rhode Islanders and better our communities. The funded organizations span all corners of the state. Programs support initiatives focused on youth education and extracurricular activities, human services, the environment, and housing, among others.

“Helping our community and directly supporting organizations doing important work is who we are as a local bank,” said Will Tsonos, BankRI’s President and CEO. “Rhode Islanders turn to our trusted nonprofits for services they provide, and it is vital they have the resources they need to deliver their programs.”

Save The Bay is among the funded organizations, receiving a grant to support its *Explore the Bay* STEM program at Thompson Middle and Pell Elementary schools in Newport. The innovative effort marries school curriculum with hands-on, real-world learning that supports environmental literacy and helps inspire the Bay stewards of tomorrow. Through *Explore the Bay*, middle school students experience a “Marine Science Cruise,” which incorporates a trawl to come face-to-face with sea life, learn about their discoveries in real-time, and understand salinity levels. The students of Pell Elementary embark on a “Seal Tour,” learning about the harbor seal, Rhode Island’s state marine mammal, and visit the organization’s Exploration Center and Aquarium.

“This is about helping students develop a meaningful relationship with Narragansett Bay that will stay with them the rest of their lives. The excitement starts with what they might discover on the bay floor, touching a sea star or shark for the first time,” said Bridget Prescott, Director of Education for Save The Bay. “As a nonprofit, we are incredibly grateful for BankRI’s support of these programs.”

Another organization to receive funding is **Cranston League for Cranston’s Future (CLCF)**, awarded a grant to support its Youth Sports Grants program. This CLCF program covers the cost of participation for children who otherwise may not be able to play a sport of their choice, such as baseball, softball, basketball, track, tennis, wrestling, and more. Founded more than 60 years ago, CLCF is among the most varied and largest youth sports organizations in the country.

“Youth sports teach young people so much more than how to hit a baseball or kick a soccer ball, and we want to make sure those life lessons are available to all children, regardless of their financial circumstances,” said Tony DeSimone, President, CLCF. “Community support is what makes our grants possible. We deeply appreciate BankRI’s commitment to, not only our program, but to the kids who enjoy them.”

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A complete list of organizations to receive a BankRI grant is:

- Aldersbridge Communities
- Beacon Charter School
- Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Providence
- Button Hole Golf
- Capital Good Fund
- Children's Friend
- City of Cranston
- City of Pawtucket
- Community Boating Center
- Community Care Alliance
- Cranston League for Cranston's Future
- Crossroads Rhode Island
- General Federation of Women's Clubs – Women's Club of South County
- Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation
- HopeHealth Hospice & Palliative Care
- Newport Hospital
- Norman Bird Sanctuary
- Pawtucket Foundation
- Rhode Island College Foundation
- Rhode Island PBS Foundation
- Rhode Island Write On Sports
- RI Oral Health Foundation
- Save The Bay
- Star Kids Scholarship Program
- The Learning Community
- Thundermist Health Center
- Warwick Symphony Orchestra

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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.