

NEWS RELEASE

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Community raises more than \$100,000 for Junior Achievement to support education programs for RI youth

BankRI helps to lead the way, named “Top Fundraising Company”

(Warwick, RI) – Junior Achievement of Rhode Island (JA) is celebrating the results of its signature fundraiser as its community came together to raise \$102,260 in support of education programs for local youth. A total of 389 participants from 36 companies across the Ocean State raised funds through the organization’s “Play4JA,” a series of virtual and in-person fundraising events.

“Play4JA” includes Achieve-A-Bowl, which is JA’s oldest and largest fundraising effort, as well as paint and wine nights, and virtual bingo and trivia events. Proceeds from “Play4JA” events support JA’s mission to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy. Over the past 39 years, “Play4JA,” and before it Achieve-A-Bowl, has raised more than \$2 million.

“Bringing together the business community and educators to set our students on the path to success is at the heart of everything JA does,” said Lee Lewis, President of Junior Achievement of Rhode Island. “Thank you to all the companies who have made this possible through Play4JA, this year and over its nearly 40 year history.”

As part of this year’s fundraiser, JA hosted the return of its Achieve-A-Bowl Industry challenge; a contest among companies in the same industry participating in the bowl-a-thon. The friendly competition is a way to encourage raising the most money in support of Junior Achievement of Rhode Island. The winners of this year’s Achieve-A-Bowl Industry Challenge are:

- KPMG, accounting
- BankRI, banking
- Amgen, biotech
- Dimeo Construction, construction
- Newport Restaurant Group, hospitality
- Locke Lord, LLP, law firm/legal
- Nordson EFD, manufacturing

Additionally, JA would like to recognize this year’s top fundraisers. The dedicated company and individual went above and beyond in their support of Achieve-A-Bowl and JA’s efforts to provide all youth with the skillset and mindset to build thriving communities. The 2023 Top Fundraising Company is BankRI, which raised \$16,250.51 among its 45 participants. The 2023 Top Fundraiser Award was presented to Scott Lajoie of BankRI, who raised \$5,250.

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“Junior Achievement is an organization that does incredible work – it’s easy to want to go the extra mile in support of their mission and the impact they make,” said Scott Lajoie, SVP, Commercial Banking, BankRI, and member of JA’s Board of Directors. “Being recognized is always nice, but the real winners here are Junior Achievement and the students who benefit from their education programs.”

JA expresses its sincere gratitude to all the participants who committed their time, resources, and energy to the Achieve-A-Bowl Industry Challenge. Their unwavering dedication and support was instrumental to the success of “Play4JA,” and every person and company played a vital role in helping to make a positive difference in the lives of youth in Rhode Island.

“Play4JA” sponsors included Gold Sponsors: Amica Insurance, Collette, Douglas Wine & Spirits, KPMG, General Dynamics Electric Boat, and Webster Bank; Silver Sponsors: BankRI, Cardi’s Furniture and Mattresses, Centreville Bank, DiSanto Priest Charitable Foundation, Green Development, Hinckley Allen, Lang’s Bowlarama, Navigant Credit Union, Nordson EFD, Toray Plastics, and Washington Trust; Bronze Sponsors: Atwells Group Hospitality Management, Bally’s Twin River Lincoln, BankNewport, Cox Business, Dave’s Marketplace, Dimeo Construction, Newport Restaurant Group, The Business Development Company, and Vertikal6.

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About Junior Achievement of Rhode Island

Junior Achievement is the state's largest organization dedicated to giving young people the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their future, and make smart academic and economic choices. JA programs are delivered by corporate and community volunteers and provide relevant, hands-on experiences that give students from kindergarten through high school knowledge and skills in financial literacy, workforce readiness, and entrepreneurship. Today, JA reaches more than 10,000 students per year in over 20 communities across Rhode Island. For more information, visit our website at <http://jarhodeisland.org>, connect with us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).