



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BankRI Sends \$109,600 in Grants to Nonprofits Across Rhode Island

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Supporting a diverse array of nonprofits and their work, Bank Rhode Island (BankRI) has awarded a total of \$109,600 in grants to thirty-six local organizations. Together, the services of the funded nonprofits impact residents throughout the state. Among the programs to receive a grant are those which focus on at-risk youth, address housing instability, improve access to health services, and support education, including adult workforce training.

“We know there is a need within our communities and that our neighbors often first turn to one of our many nonprofits when seeking services,” said **Will Tsonos**, President and CEO of BankRI. “Every day, our fellow Rhode Islanders benefit from the missions of these vital organizations. Supporting their work is important to all of us at BankRI.”

Among the grantees is **College Visions**, which received \$5,000 for its College Access and Success Programs, including support to launch the program within Woonsocket High School this academic year. It is the first time College Visions is bringing its programming into a school setting. In Providence, where the organization is based, students come to its office from various high schools. To empower first-generation students of color to achieve the promise of higher education, College Visions provides mentorship and resources to students beginning in high school and throughout their college journey.

In Woonsocket, a College Visions advisor is now based within the high school, offering direct access to students and removing barriers to participation in the program. Students who participate receive one-on-one advising, assistance with college and financial aid applications, and intensive preparatory workshops, among other supports. The organization also organizes college campus visits. For its high school class of 2021, Woonsocket had the lowest rate (32%) of college enrollment within 6 months of graduation of any community in the state. By contrast, in Providence, 98 percent of College Visions scholars enroll in college within the same time period following graduation.

“This pilot program was born out of the need to provide greater college access support to the youth of Woonsocket – we’re thrilled to have a presence at Woonsocket High School thanks to the support of district and school leadership and partners like BankRI,” said **Lamont Gordon**, College Vision’s Executive Director. “Education transforms lives and creates strong, thriving, and resilient communities, and that’s something we all want for our state.”

The complete list of organizations to receive a grant from BankRI is:

- Clinica Esperanza
- College Visions
- Crossroads Rhode Island

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- Dare to Dream Ranch
- David Louis Cunha Foundation
- Empowerment Factory
- Entrepreneurship for All
- Everett Company Stage School
- FirstWorks
- Genesis Center
- Good Neighbors Inc.
- Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce
- Grow Smart RI
- Junior Achievement of Rhode Island
- Lincoln School
- Lucy's Hearth
- MAE Organization, Inc.
- Narragansett Historical Society
- Operation Stand Down Rhode Island
- Pocasset Pokanoket Land Trust
- Providence After School Alliance
- Providence Animal Rescue League
- Providence Academy of International Studies
- Rhode Island Ovarian Cancer Alliance
- Rhode Island Veterinary Medical Association
- Shri Service Corps
- Sojourner House
- South Kingstown Land Trust
- Special Olympics Rhode Island
- Stages of Freedom
- The Steel Yard
- Thundermist Health Center
- United Way of Rhode Island
- Warren Heritage Foundation
- WaterFire Providence
- West Bay Rhode Island – West Bay Residential

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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 21 branches and more than 30 ATMs throughout Providence, Kent, Newport and Washington Counties. For more information, visit www.bankri.com.