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Rhode Island Nonprofits Receive \$101,500 in BankRI Grants

Funding focuses on addressing food insecurity, supporting human services, and education-based organizations

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Bank Rhode Island (BankRI) has awarded \$101,500 in charitable grants to nonprofits throughout the state. A total of 26 organizations have received funding, with the Bank placing a particular emphasis on increasing access to nutritious foods and supporting programs whose work focuses on early education and workforce development.

“No matter where in Rhode Island you live, nonprofits make a difference every day,” said Will Tsonos, President and CEO of BankRI. “The programs and services nonprofits provide are vital to so many of our neighbors, and we are proud to support that work and ensure it continues.”

Of the organizations to be funded is **Southside Community Land Trust (SCLT)**, which received \$5,000 for its Produce Aggregation and Distribution Program. A multi-pronged effort, the program aims to address food insecurity, improve the health of the community, and support small-scale farmers. Housed within the organization’s Farm-to-Market Center, the program partners with local farmers to buy thousands of pounds of locally grown crops that are later distributed to individuals and families at risk of hunger.

With its BankRI grant, SCLT will purchase additional equipment to wash, weigh, and process produce, ultimately increasing the amount and variety of fresh food they can handle and put into the community. Last growing season, the most popular crops included leafy greens, onions, carrots, and culturally relevant produce such as sweet potato leaves, lemongrass, and chayote. BankRI previously supported the Produce Aggregation and Distribution Program in 2021, helping SCLT purchase a blast chiller to flash freeze surplus crops so they could be preserved and used during winter months.

“We have nearly tripled the output of our produce aggregation program in just three years, which underscores both the need in our community and demand for what our local farmers grow,” said Shana Santow, SCLT’s Development Director. “BankRI has been an amazing partner of this program and model that we know we can scale and bring to even more of our neighbors and growers.”

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

- Angels’ Care Closet
- Bryant University
- Childhood Lead Action Project
- City of Cranston
- City of Pawtucket

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- Farm Fresh RI
- Gregg's Giving Tree
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
- Operation Stand Down Rhode Island
- Providence Children's Film Festival
- Quest Montessori School
- Reach Out and Read Rhode Island
- Read to Succeed
- Rhode Island Business Competition
- Rhode Island Free Clinic
- Rhode Island Hospitality Association
- Rhode Island HUB
- Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra & Music School
- Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council
- Salve Regina University
- School One
- South Eastern Economic Development Corporation
- Southside Community Land Trust
- Teach for America Rhode Island
- Thundermist Health Center
- West Broadway Neighborhood Association

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