



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **BankRI Awards \$105,000 in Grants to Local Nonprofits** *Youth mentoring, education, and basic needs supports among programs funded*

**PROVIDENCE, R.I.** – Community programs across the state have received a funding boost thanks to Bank Rhode Island (BankRI). The bank recently awarded a total of \$105,000 in charitable grants to 30 local nonprofits. Among the funded initiatives are those that provide education and mentorship to youth, and programs that provide basic needs supports.

“Supporting our community and funding programs that make a difference for Rhode Islanders is always a priority for all of us at BankRI,” said Will Tsonos, the Bank’s President and CEO. “There are many ways in which nonprofits not only help lift up our neighbors during tough times, but also enrich quality of life in our state – it’s important they have the resources to continue doing their important work.”

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rhode Island** (BBBSRI) is one of the organizations awarded a grant, receiving \$2,500 to support its mentor programs, including a new initiative that addresses the void in services available to youth once they turn 18.

*Real Skills for Young Adults* launched as a pilot last September. Geared to youth of all genders and between the ages of 18-25, it focuses on teaching life skills such as how to apply for an apartment or enroll in health insurance. It also features education and employment supports, like skills assessment for career paths, resume development, and job interview practice sessions. Participants meet in group monthly and benefit from the support of Mentors and the organization’s Case Managers.

The bank’s grant also supports BBBSRI’s *Real Skills Ready & Waiting* program. The program pairs boys on their waitlist, aged 10-14, with an individual mentor. It engages mentors with youth in a monthly group setting at the organization’s office as a way to begin their involvement with mentoring and where staff can help plan for topics like discussing future goals, emphasizing life skills, and learning about hobbies and interests.

“Funding like BankRI’s is fundamental to our ability to provide new experiences and opportunities for our youth so they can explore and grow,” said Kaleigh Perkins, COO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of RI. “This is about supporting the empowerment of young people, which has the power to change their trajectory in life. Every dollar counts for nonprofits, and we appreciate knowing we have partners committed to helping ensure we’re able to run these programs and offer new ones that meet specific areas of need.”

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The complete list of organizations awarded a BankRI grant is:

- Academic Decathlon
- Adoption Rhode Island
- Artists Exchange/Gateway to Change
- Back to School Rhode Island
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rhode Island
- Books Are Wings
- Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Warwick
- Church of Saint Michael the Archangel
- Coaching for Change
- Community College of RI Foundation
- Community Preparatory School
- Crossroads Rhode Island
- Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation
- Grow Smart RI
- John E. Fogarty Foundation
- Junior Achievement of RI
- Newport Contemporary Ballet
- Newport County YMCA
- Newport String Project
- Pawtucket Central Falls Development
- Potter League for Animals
- Prout School
- Providence Preservation Society
- Providence Public Library
- Rhode Island College Foundation
- Rhode Island PBS Foundation
- SquashBusters
- The Miriam Hospital Foundation
- Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council

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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](http://www.bankri.com).*