



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BankRI Awards \$6,000 Grant to Clinica Esperanza/Hope Clinic to Fund Pre-Employment Physicals for Uninsured Rhode Islanders Seeking Jobs

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – In response to the growing number of uninsured Rhode Islanders seeking pre-employment physicals at Clinica Esperanza/Hope Clinic in Providence, **Bank Rhode Island (BankRI)** has awarded the organization a \$6,000 grant to meet the increased need.

As the state’s largest free health clinic to serve uninsured Rhode Islanders, Clinica Esperanza/Hope Clinic has experienced a dramatic 58 percent increase in the number of pre-employment physicals performed annually since 2015.

The Clinic’s physical exams are delivered by volunteer medical providers who also complete the documentation patients require for job applications and re-entering the workforce. If individuals need lab tests or vaccinations, they are obtained through the Clinic’s network of free-care sites or are paid out-of-pocket by patients at highly-reduced rates. Thanks to support from BankRI and other partners, the Clinic’s average investment for each pre-employment physical is \$123, or approximately one-sixth of what the cost would be to an uninsured individual if they were seen elsewhere.

“Clinica Esperanza’s pre-employment physical program not only helps our low-income neighbors get back to work, it is also life-changing in that previously uninsured individuals will have access to insurance coverage through their new jobs,” said Mark J. Meiklejohn, President and CEO of BankRI. “When you’re struggling to make ends meet, the financial burden of health care can feel even more daunting. We applaud Clinica Esperanza for providing this critical resource to our community while helping our economy to meet a growing demand for new employees.”

Along with offering pre-employment physicals, Clinica Esperanza/Hope Clinic’s volunteer medical providers educate patients about preventative health issues and leading a healthy lifestyle. Additionally, they offer a continuity of care clinic for individuals in need of a primary care physician or assistance managing chronic conditions. Pre-employment physicals are offered every Friday, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., at the Clinic’s office at 60 Valley Street in Providence. To learn more, visit www.aplacetobehealthy.org.

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 55 ATMs throughout Providence, Kent, Newport and Washington Counties. For more information, visit www.bankri.com. You can also find BankRI on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/BankRhodeIsland.

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