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Washington Trust's 10th Annual PB Xpress Generates 10 Tons of Peanut Butter for the Hungry

87 Tons of Peanut Butter Collected for RI Community Food Bank Over 10 Years

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – The results are in and Washington Trust is 'spreading the good news' about its 10th annual regional peanut butter drive – the PB Xpress. This year, the campaign brought in 10 tons of peanut butter thanks to the support and volunteerism of Washington Trust bank employees and the more than 150 participating schools, businesses and organizations who contributed to the drive. Reaching this amount has put the total amount of peanut butter collected during the 10-year history of the PB Xpress at the 87-ton mark. The peanut butter is being distributed by the Rhode Island Community Food Bank to local food pantries and families in need.

"When we launched this year's PB Xpress campaign in March, hunger in Rhode Island was at a 10-year record-high," said Washington Trust Chairman, President and CEO Joseph J. MarcAurele. "Shortly thereafter, Rhode Island and parts of southeastern Connecticut were hit with record flooding – creating devastating effects for many residents."

MarcAurele added, "For these reasons and more, we were committed to generating as much interest and involvement in our drive. And, we were successful, as 10 tons of peanut butter goes a long way. If you do the math, 10 tons of peanut butter equates to about 320,000 peanut butter sandwiches, enough to feed every school-age child in Rhode Island almost two peanut butter sandwiches. We're incredibly pleased with the results and extend our gratitude to all those who pitched in to help, especially the Washington Trust employees, the Junior League of Rhode Island and Eden Park Elementary School who were our top donors."

Andrew Schiff, CEO of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, commented, "Peanut butter is one of the most in-demand items among the Food Bank's member agency food pantries. Thanks to the efforts of Washington Trust, and all of the participating businesses, schools and community groups, thousands of jars of this protein-rich food have already begun making their way to the tables of hungry Rhode Islanders."

This year's PB Xpress ran from early March through mid-May with donations being accepted at Washington Trust branch locations, at the 150 participating schools, businesses and organizations across the state and into southeastern Connecticut, and online at www.peanutbutterbank.com and www.rifoodbank.org.

Other factors that contributed to the success of the campaign were: a PB Xpress Facebook page, which included updates on the campaign's progress and celebrated collection successes through the posting of photos and fun facts about individual peanut butter drives; and large-scale collection events coordinated in partnership with Roger Williams Park Zoo, the Providence Bruins, and the Pawtucket Red Sox.

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Washington Trust's PB Xpress is the largest product-specific food drive to benefit the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. The choice of collecting peanut butter, rather than running a general food drive, came when the campaign started 10 years ago, as peanut butter is high in protein, popular for both children and adults, but can be expensive for struggling families. At the same time, the PB Xpress provides an opportunity for people to help out as little or as much as they choose to, with the simple donation of one jar or the donation of several jars of peanut butter.

About Washington Trust:

The Washington Trust Company is a subsidiary of [Washington Trust Bancorp, Inc.](#), a \$2.9 billion corporation headquartered in Westerly, Rhode Island. Founded in 1800, [Washington Trust](#) is the oldest community bank in the nation and is the largest independent bank headquartered in Rhode Island. A state-chartered bank, Washington Trust offers a full range of financial services, including [commercial banking](#), [small business banking](#), [personal banking](#), and [wealth management](#) and trust services through its offices located in Rhode Island, southeastern Connecticut and eastern Massachusetts. The Corporation's common stock trades on The NASDAQ Global Select® Stock Market under the symbol WASH. Web site address: www.washtrust.com.

About the Rhode Island Community Food Bank:

The Rhode Island Community Food Bank is a non-profit organization located in Providence, R.I. The Food Bank solicits, stores and distributes food products donated by supermarkets, wholesalers, food processors, local farmers and community food drives. The food is then distributed to the Food Bank's network of more than 300 member agency programs. In the past fiscal year, the Food Bank distributed 9.5 million pounds of food. For more information about the Food Bank, please visit www.rifoodbank.org

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