



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jonnycake Center of Westerly Distributes 390 Thanksgiving Meals to Local Residents in Need

Westerly, RI – The Jonnycake Center of Westerly announced that on Saturday, November 23, 2019, the organization distributed **390 Thanksgiving meals** to households in southern Rhode Island. This figure represents **one of the largest Thanksgiving distributions** in the organization’s forty-four year history.

Throughout Fall 2019, income-eligible clients from Westerly, Charlestown, Richmond, Hopkinton, and other Rhode Island communities were invited to register with the Jonnycake Center of Westerly’s Social Services team to receive Thanksgiving meals from the Center’s Food Pantry. Jonnycake staff coordinated a series of donation drives, accepted donated food items from residents, and purchased food from the Rhode Island Community Food Bank and other community partners to secure enough food to meet demand.

Prior to distribution day, Jonnycake staff and volunteers spent **over 110 hours** sorting food and preparing Thanksgiving meal kits to be distributed to registered households on Saturday, November 23, 2019.

On distribution day, registered clients came to the Jonnycake Center to receive their Thanksgiving supplies. Clients had the option to receive **no-cost flu shots** from Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island, or browse a **free Farmer’s Market**, while waiting for their meal baskets. The distribution process went smoothly, and every client left with a basket filled with the necessary items for a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

“We are grateful to all our neighbors who helped make this year’s Thanksgiving distribution drive a success,” said **Lee Eastbourne**, Jonnycake Center Executive Director. “Despite a rising need for assistance, our partners more than met the challenge in ensuring that no client would have to go hungry on Thanksgiving this year. Thanks to the generosity of donors and supporters, we were able to provide enough turkeys, fresh produce, non-perishables, and other staples of Thanksgiving dinner to feed local residents in need. It is truly heartwarming that the community continues to come together to support the most vulnerable among us.”

While Thanksgiving supplies have already been distributed, the Jonnycake Center invites residents to participate in its **Adopt-a-Family program**, which arranges toys and holiday presents for southern Rhode Island children in need. To sign up as an adoptee family in need of holiday toys, visit the Jonnycake Center’s Social Services team at 23 Industrial Drive in Westerly or call (401) 377-8069 x101. To register as an adopting family who can procure necessities and toys, contact Lee Eastbourne at leastbourne@jonnycake.org. Volunteers are sought to assist in all aspects of the Adopt-a-Family program.

More information about the Jonnycake Center of Westerly’s Social Services, Food Pantry, Educational Outreach, Holiday Programming, and public-facing Thrift Store can be found at jonnycake.org or (401) 377-8069.

About The Jonnycake Center of Westerly

The Jonnycake Center of Westerly’s mission is to provide a continuum of services in cooperation with other agencies in our service area to assist people through crisis situations and work with each individual to find a path out of dependency toward self-sufficiency. For more information, visit Jonnycake.org, become a fan on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/jonnycakecenter), follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/jonnycakecenter) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/jonnycakecenter), or call (401) 377-8069.

A Non-Profit Charitable Organization

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