



For Immediate Release

Contact: Matt Levy, Social Media & Marketing Manager

MLevy@Jonnycake.org

(401) 377-8069 x116

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Jonnycake Center of Westerly Receives \$63,000 Grant from Champlin Foundation

Non-Profit Org to Renovate Thrift Store and Donation Processing Space, Expand Footprint by 2,000 Square Feet

Westerly, RI – The Jonnycake Center of Westerly is delighted to announce that it recently received a \$63,000 grant from the Champlin Foundation to significantly renovate and expand its Thrift Store and donation processing space. The renovations are expected to begin in early 2020.

The Jonnycake Center's highly popular Thrift Store offers a wide variety of brand-new, gently-used, and vintage items at the very lowest prices possible. Proceeds from the Thrift Store directly support local residents in need, as the store generates 50% of the revenue necessary for the Center's Social Services arm to operate a community Food Pantry and offer a number of support services for income-eligible clients.

Store revenue also helps pay for the organization's general overhead costs. Additional organizational funding comes from grants, fundraising events, and individual giving.

In recent years, the Jonnycake Center has seen a rising need for its Social Services without the ability to increase the scope of its Thrift Store to help meet funding demands. The generous grant from the Champlin Foundation will allow the Center to make much-needed renovations to its Thrift Store that will grow its profitability while offering an enhanced overall shopping experience.

Highlights of what the Champlin grant will enable the Thrift Store to accomplish include:

- **Increased Sales Floor Space**, allowing the Jonnycake Center to sell more items than ever before, thereby fundraising more effectively. The Thrift Store will grow from 5,300 square feet to 7,300 square feet.
- **Increased Furniture Floor Space**, enabling staff to stock a wider variety of furniture with more options for affordable or high-value pricing.
- **Improved Store Layout**, allowing greater efficiency among staff and shoppers.
- **Increased Amount of Dressing Rooms**, giving shoppers valuable privacy.
- **Enhanced Donation Processing Areas**, letting staff work more efficiently to prepare donated items for sale.
- **Revamped Loading Dock**, easing confusion that store donors, shoppers, and staff sometimes face with the current layout.

"The Jonnycake Center relies on our Thrift Store revenue to cover overhead for the entire organization and help fund our programming," said **Heather Vultee**, Thrift Store Manager. "Unfortunately, emergency repairs, unexpected expenses, and the occasional funding gap all eat away at the proceeds that the Thrift Store is currently able to provide. Thanks to the Champlin Foundation's wonderful grant, the expanded Thrift Store will be in a great position to continue to serve the community for years to come while offering an improved retail experience for shoppers. We are excited to begin work!"

To learn more about the Jonnycake Center of Westerly's Thrift Store, or to inquire about food and monetary assistance available for income-eligible residents, visit Jonnycake.org, call (401) 377-8069, follow the Center on social media (including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube), or stop in at 23 Industrial Drive in Westerly.

Since 1932, The Champlin Foundation has awarded more than \$550 million to fund capital projects and equipment for Rhode Island non-profit organizations. These investments have fostered expanded access to social services, better medical care, improved education, preservation of historic buildings, advancement of animal welfare, and more. Quietly and steadfastly, The Champlin Foundation helps those who do good do more – to the benefit of all.

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

23 Industrial Drive P.O. Box 273 Westerly, RI 02891 401.377.8069 www.jonnycake.org mail@jonnycake.org

