



For Immediate Release
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Harry M., Miriam C. & William C. Horton Fund and Bank of America Award \$4,000 Grant to Jonnycake Center of Westerly

Westerly, RI – The Harry M., Miriam C. & William C. Horton Fund and its Trustee, **Bank of America, N.A.**, has awarded a **\$4,000 grant** to the Jonnycake Center of Westerly for **emergency food assistance**. These funds will be utilized in a four-pronged approach to feed neighbors facing a critical food shortage at home:

- The Jonnycake Center of Westerly's **Food Assistance Program** provides a week's worth of food to local residents every thirty days, complementing other government programs such as SNAP. Ordinarily, nearly 3,000 residents of Westerly, Charlestown, Hopkinton, and Richmond, Rhode Island seek this monthly food assistance on a regular basis. Between 2018 and 2019, Jonnycake distributed supplies for 214,637 meals – representing a 3.5% increase over the previous year. As client numbers rise amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Food Pantry will face one of its greatest operational challenges in its 45-year history.
- With schools closed and local students learning from home, the **SPLASH Program** (Summer Program Looking to Alleviate Student Hunger) has been modified to provide healthy breakfast and lunch meals through the duration of closure to any child in need in our service area.
- When schools are in session, the Jonnycake Center of Westerly's **Power Pack Program** provides nutritious, delicious meals and supplies to local schoolchildren every weekend during the school year.
- The Center's weekly **Farmer's Market** offers free fresh, locally-grown produce for Jonnycake clients and community members every Wednesday during operating season. In early 2020, the Jonnycake Center of Westerly finalized an agreement to assume operations of the now-former Charlestown Community Garden, where the Center had previously been a beneficiary. The Center will utilize the garden to sustainably grow, harvest, and deliver produce for its own Food Pantry and Farmer's Market (when open for the season), as well as other peer local pantries.

"In a time of uncertainty, the Harry M., Miriam C. & William C. Horton Fund and Bank of America have stepped up in a major way to help people in crisis," said **Lee Eastbourne**, Jonnycake Center of Westerly Executive Director. "Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Jonnycake Center of Westerly has seen a fifteen percent rise in new client signups. Unfortunately, we anticipate that figure to rise more in the coming weeks, which will put an increasing strain on our Food Pantry. Thanks to this generous grant, the challenge has been helped along significantly, and we can continue to feed as many neighbors in need as possible."

For more information about the Jonnycake Center of Westerly, including its Food Pantry, Social Services programming, and public-facing Thrift Store (temporarily closed while undergoing an expansion), visit jonnycake.org or call (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/jonnycake), follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/jonnycake) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/jonnycake), or call (401) 377-8069.

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