



**For Immediate Release**  
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**Walmart Foundation Awards \$1,000 Community Grant to Jonnycake Center of Westerly for Emergency Food Assistance**

**Westerly, RI** – The Walmart Foundation has awarded a \$1,000 Community Grant to the Jonnycake Center of Westerly for emergency food assistance. The funds will be used by the Center’s Food Pantry in a four-pronged approach to tackle hunger:

- 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. With client numbers rising amid the COVID-19 pandemic and associated job losses, the Food Pantry is facing one of its greatest operational challenges in its 45-year history.
- With schools closed, the Jonnycake Center of Westerly’s **SPLASH Program** (Summer Program Looking to Alleviate Student Hunger) has been modified to provide underserved children with a week’s worth of healthy breakfast and lunches every week through the duration of closure.
- When schools are in session, the Jonnycake Center of Westerly’s **Power Pack Program** provides nutritious meals and supplies to local schoolchildren in need 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 nutritious 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 when many are struggling, Walmart has demonstrated its commitment to caring for the most vulnerable in our community,” said **Lee Eastbourne**, Jonnycake Center of Westerly Executive Director. “The Jonnycake Center of Westerly and our Food Pantry are grateful for the \$1,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation and our local Westerly Walmart. Thanks to their support, our Food Pantry is better equipped to continue serving and feeding our neighbors and children who are facing critical food shortages at home. Together, we are ensuring that no one in need has to go hungry.”

For more information about the Jonnycake Center of Westerly, including its Food Pantry, Social Services programming, and public-facing Thrift Store (temporarily closed to the public while undergoing an expansion, but offering personal shopping services), visit [jonnycake.org](http://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](http://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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