



**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Jonnycake Center of Westerly Postpones Annual Benefit Evening**

**Westerly, RI – The Jonnycake Center of Westerly** has announced that it is regrettably **postponing its Fourth Annual Benefit Evening**, scheduled to take place June 5, 2020 at the Haversham House in Westerly.

The Jonnycake Center of Westerly’s annual Benefit Evening is one of the leading fundraising events for the non-profit organization, which operates a community **Food Pantry** and **Social Services office**, offers **educational initiatives** for underemployed adults, and runs a public-facing **Thrift Store**. The Jonnycake Center relies on proceeds from the Benefit Evening’s ticket sales and live/silent auctions to raise funds to purchase food in bulk for the Pantry, offer critical basic needs financial assistance, and help offset general administrative costs. The organization raised over \$20,000 from the 2019 Benefit Evening and projected a similar amount for the 2020 event.

The 2020 Benefit Evening was to commemorate the Jonnycake Center of Westerly’s 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary and reflect the organization’s unique impact on the southern Rhode Island community since first opening in 1975 in Bradford, RI. Scheduled highlights of the sapphire-themed evening were to include an open bar, delicious dinner, live music and dancing, and live/silent auctions featuring donated gifts from the Westerly-area business community and one-of-a-kind travel experiences and getaways.

“We are saddened to have to postpone our annual Benefit Evening, but given the uncertainty surrounding the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Jonnycake Center of Westerly’s Board of Directors and staff felt it was the right thing to do to mitigate the risk of spreading infection,” said **Lee Eastbourne**, Executive Director. “We are confident that even as we forego this major annual fundraiser for the organization, we will stay adequately funded to provide enough food and basic needs assistance for the foreseeable future. Our neighbors and the business community have been unbelievably generous in contributing financially to Jonnycake over the past two months, helping to ensure that we can stay open and serving individuals in crisis. We extend our gratitude to the Haversham House and their understanding in this difficult situation.”

To make a donation to the Jonnycake Center of Westerly and help offset its rising expenses and diminished revenue, visit [jonnycake.org/donate-2](http://jonnycake.org/donate-2) or call Bambi Poppick, Director of Development, at **(401) 315-4584**. Because the Center’s Thrift Store and Food Pantry have temporarily suspended unsolicited thrift and food donations from the public, financial contributions are most needed at this time to help the Center meet its budget.

For the most current information about the Jonnycake Center of Westerly, visit [jonnycake.org](http://jonnycake.org) or call (401) 377-8069. Additional information can be found on the Center’s [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) pages.

#### **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](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), or call (401) 377-8069.

*A Non-Profit Charitable Organization*

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