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Nordson Corporation Foundation Awards \$7,500 to Jonnycake Center of Westerly

Westerly, RI – The Jonnycake Center of Westerly announced it has received a **\$7,500 grant** from the **Nordson Corporation Foundation** for general operations assistance. The grant will be used to help the Jonnycake Center provide direct service to people who have been affected by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Jonnycake Center of Westerly is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that provides a continuum of services designed to lift individuals in need out of crisis and lead them toward a path of self-sufficiency. The Center's primary services include its **Food Pantry**, which provided over 214,000 meals to the community in 2018-19; **Social Services**, which distributed over \$116,000 in emergency financial assistance in the last year; **Educational Initiatives**, including training for underemployed adults; **Volunteer Opportunities** that welcome people of all ages and abilities; a **Community Garden**, which provides healthy and sustainably-farmed fresh produce for its own Food Pantry and pantries of peer agencies; and its public-facing **Thrift Store**, which provides over 50% of the funding necessary for the Center to stay operational.

In March 2020, in accordance with state and federal guidelines, the Jonnycake Center of Westerly closed its Thrift Store to the public, canceled fundraising events, and ceased most on-site operations except its Food Pantry. As a result, the organization has foregone some of its most critical streams of revenue and is potentially facing a gap in its funding.

The \$7,500 in general operational funding from the Nordson Corporation Foundation will help the Center's Food Pantry continue to provide free meals, even as client volume rises due to economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, and help the Social Services department provide assistance with rent and mortgages, medical bills, utilities, pet food, and vouchers for the Thrift Store. The grant will also help offset the Center's general administrative costs, which have risen without a matching ability to raise adequate funding. The grant gives the Jonnycake Center flexibility to apply the funds where they are needed most.

"The Nordson Corporation Foundation is an invaluable partner in helping our community get through the COVID-19 crisis," said **Lee Eastbourne**, Jonnycake Center of Westerly Executive Director. "Their generous grant makes a big impact and allows the Jonnycake Center to focus on continuing to provide food and care to our most vulnerable neighbors. We are grateful for the Nordson Corporation Foundation's support in these difficult times."

The Nordson Corporation is a leading developer and manufacturer of differentiated products used for dispensing adhesives, coatings, sealants, biomaterials and other materials. The company serves numerous consumer non-durable, durable and technology end markets, including packaging, nonwovens, electronics, medical, appliances, energy, transportation, construction, and general product assembly and finishing. The Nordson Corporation Foundation funds initiatives relating to childhood education, human welfare, arts and culture, and civic engagement in Providence County, Rhode Island, as well as in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, California, Colorado, Georgia, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. For more information, visit Nordson.com.

To learn more about the Jonnycake Center of Westerly, visit jonnycake.org or call (401) 377-8069. To make a financial contribution towards the Center's Food Pantry and Social Services office, please visit jonnycake.org/donate-2 or call (401) 315-4584.

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.

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