



For Immediate Release
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**Webster Bank Awards \$1,000 Philanthropic Grant to Jonnycake Center of Westerly
for Emergency Food Assistance**

Westerly, RI – The Jonnycake Center of Westerly announced that it recently received a \$1,000 philanthropic grant from Webster Bank 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. Since March 2020, the Center has seen a marked increase in new client signups because of job losses associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Pantry has modified its service model to focus on feeding as many neighbors in need as possible.
- 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 Jonnycake 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.

“We are grateful for Webster Bank’s wonderful contribution in these difficult times,” said **Lee Eastbourne**, Jonnycake Center of Westerly Executive Director. “This \$1,000 grant will allow our Food Pantry to purchase 10,000 pounds of food from the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, ensuring that no Jonnycake client has to go hungry. We are fortunate to have partners invested in our entire community’s well-being like Webster Bank.”

For more information about Webster Bank’s personal and commercial banking services, visit public.websteronline.com or call (800) 325-2424.

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, but offering personal shopping services and pre-scheduled donation dropoffs), 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/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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