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June 11, 2020

Champlin Foundation Grants Jonnycake Center of Westerly \$17,000 in Capital Liquidity Funds

Westerly, RI – The Jonnycake Center of Westerly announced it has received a grant from the Champlin Foundation awarding \$17,000 in capital liquidity funds. The grant will be used to help the Jonnycake Center continue to provide direct service to clients 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**; **Volunteer Opportunities**; a **Community Garden**; 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. The Thrift Store reopened in May 2020 with reduced hours and capacity, limiting the Store's fundraising potential. As a result of these measures, the Jonnycake Center has foregone some of its most critical streams of revenue in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, impacting the organization's overall budget and ability to serve.

The \$17,000 in capital liquidity funds from the Champlin Foundation allows the Center's Food Pantry continue to provide no-cost meals and ingredients for income-eligible clients, and helps the Social Services department provide assistance with rent and mortgages, medical bills, utilities, pet food, and vouchers for the Thrift Store. The grant also gives the Jonnycake Center flexibility to apply the funds where they are needed most.

"In a time of great need, the Champlin Foundation demonstrated its unwavering commitment to the health and well-being of southern Rhode Island," said **Lee Eastbourne**, Jonnycake Center of Westerly Executive Director. "This wonderful grant helps to ensure that the basic needs of our neighbors will continue to be met even as the pandemic continues to affect us all. We are grateful for the Champlin Foundation and their willingness to provide the resources necessary for us to uplift our neighbors."

"The COVID crisis created a great deal of uncertainty among the state's nonprofit community," said Champlin Foundation Executive Director **Nina Stack**. "Organizations that rely on earned revenue are struggling to keep staff on payroll and those on the front-lines of the state's public health and economic response are stretched thin. The Champlin Foundation is taking unprecedented steps to support Rhode Island's public health response and core members of our state's nonprofit community."

The Champlin Foundation's capital liquidity funding grant is part of a broad \$1.6 million initiative to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, visit champlinfoundation.org.

To learn more about the Jonnycake Center of Westerly and its Food Pantry, Social Services, and Thrift Store, 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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