



For Immediate Release
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Chelsea Groton Bank Awards \$10,000 in Emergency Food Assistance Funding to the Jonnycake Center of Westerly

Westerly, RI – The Jonnycake Center of Westerly announced that it received **\$10,000 in emergency food assistance funding** from **Chelsea Groton Bank**. These funds will be used by the Center’s Food Pantry to feed and assist individuals facing food insecurity, especially amid job losses and reduced incomes stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Jonnycake Center of Westerly’s Food Pantry utilizes 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 received a surge in new client signups due to economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in increased demand on the Pantry without a complementary ability to raise adequate funds. The \$10,000 grant from Chelsea Groton Bank significantly helps alleviate the challenge.
- 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. Once full operations resume, the Jonnycake Center will utilize the garden to sustainably grow, harvest, and deliver nutritious produce for its own Food Pantry and Farmer’s Market, as well as other peer local pantries.

“This wonderful grant from Chelsea Groton Bank makes an enormous difference in the Jonnycake Center of Westerly’s ability to serve,” said **Lee Eastbourne**, Executive Director. “Amid the COVID crisis, adequate funds are especially critical for keeping our Pantry well-stocked and able to feed hungry neighbors. We are grateful for Chelsea Groton Bank’s presence in the community and their commitment to the well-being of southern Rhode Island neighbors in need.”

For more information about the Jonnycake Center of Westerly, including its Food Pantry, Social Services operations, and public-facing 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.

A Non-Profit Charitable Organization

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