



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Matt Levy
Social Media & Marketing Manager
MLevy@Jonnycake.org
(401) 377-8069 x116
July 22, 2020

Love, Tito's Awards \$2,500 in COVID Response Funding to Jonnycake Center of Westerly

Westerly, RI – The Jonnycake Center of Westerly announced it has received a **\$2,500 grant** from **Love, Tito's**, the philanthropic arm of Tito's Handmade Vodka, in COVID-19 response funding. The grant will be used to help the Jonnycake Center provide direct service to people who have been affected by 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 a public-facing **Thrift Store**, which provides approximately 50% of the funding necessary for the Center to stay operational.

The \$2,500 in COVID-19 response funding from Love, Tito's will help the Center's Food Pantry continue to provide free food ingredients and meals for Westerly-area neighbors in need, and help the Social Services department provide assistance with rent and mortgages, medical bills, utilities, pet food, and vouchers for the Thrift Store for individuals whose incomes have diminished or disappeared because of the impact of COVID-19.

"We are incredibly grateful for Love, Tito's for helping bolster our community against the COVID-19 crisis," said **Lee Eastbourne**, Jonnycake Center of Westerly Executive Director. "This funding is important for allowing the Jonnycake Center of Westerly to continue to focus on providing food and care to our neighbors who are facing hardships as a result of the pandemic. In a trying time, our hearts have been filled with a little more love, thanks to Love, Tito's."

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Love, Tito's has donated over two million dollars in COVID response funding to nonprofits and charities nationwide. To further combat COVID, Tito's Handmade Vodka now produces hand sanitizer, and the company is actively funding several research grants in the ongoing effort to find a Coronavirus cure. For more information, visit TitosVodka.com/love.

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, 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.

A Non-Profit Charitable Organization

23 Industrial Drive P.O. Box 273 Westerly, RI 02891 401.377.8069 www.jonnycake.org mail@jonnycake.org

