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Anonymous Family Donates \$5,000 to Jonnycake Center of Westerly in Support of Neighbors in Need
Hope Act Inspires Others to Support Non-Profit Food Pantry & Social Services Organization

Westerly, RI – The Jonnycake Center of Westerly announced that it recently received a **generous \$5,000 donation from an anonymous family** in Westerly. The gift was made in the spirit of supporting the non-profit social services organization, and as **an act that could inspire other Westerly-area residents** to support the Center.

In a note provided with the donation, the anonymous donor explained that they wanted to support the Jonnycake Center because it cannot have many of its usual fundraising activities amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Ordinarily, the Center relies on fundraising events, proceeds from its on-site Thrift Store, grants, individual giving, and food donations from the community to help meet its budget. With most public fundraising events having been canceled in 2020 and likely beyond, and the Thrift Store closed to the public for almost eleven weeks, and then reopened with reduced hours/reduced capacity, and food donations from the community having been suspended for five months, the Center’s fundraising potential has been greatly diminished, affecting the organization’s ability to serve those most in need in the community.

The donor mentioned in the note that although they felt fortunate to be “somewhat removed from the horrors of this pandemic, many of our neighbors are not doing well. There are many deep pockets in Westerly and many in need due to the COVID-19 crisis.” The donor hoped that by generating public interest through their own donation, they could inspire others to do the same.

“This is a truly wonderful gift, and it comes at an incredibly important time,” said **Lee Eastbourne**, Jonnycake Center of Westerly Executive Director. “As COVID-19 cases again continue to climb, and economic impacts worsen, we have to be able to provide enough food and support for those among us who are struggling. This donation shows the sense of generosity here in Westerly, and we are humbled that it was made in the spirit of serving as an inspiration for others. In trying times, an act of kindness such as this can make an enormous difference.”

The anonymous gift will help the Jonnycake Center’s Food Pantry procure up to 2.5 tons of food from the Rhode Island Community Food Bank and other partners. Funds are also used by the Center’s Social Services department to provide emergency financial assistance for nearly 3,000 local residents, including assistance for heat, electricity, utilities, rent, mortgages, doctor visits, vet bills, and other critical expenses.

To support the Jonnycake Center of Westerly and help it continue to lift neighbors out of crisis, especially amid the COVID-19 pandemic, visit jonnycake.org/donate-2 or call (401) 315-4584. To learn more about the Center and its Social Services, Food Pantry, public-facing Thrift Store, and additional programs, 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

