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Jonnycake Center of Westerly Receives \$7,500 from Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation to Combat Food Insecurity

Westerly, RI – The Jonnycake Center of Westerly announced it has received a grant of **\$7,500** from the **Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation**. The funds will be used by the Jonnycake Center to **combat food insecurity in southern Rhode Island during the COVID-19 crisis**.

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 233,000 meals and food supplies to local residents and children in 2019-20; **Social Services**, which distributed \$111,000 in financial assistance in the last year, and provides access to critical resources, and operates a large-scale holiday-time Adopt-a-Family program; a **Community Garden** which provides healthy and sustainably-farmed fresh produce for the Jonnycake Food Pantry and pantries of peer agencies; **Volunteer Opportunities** for all ages and abilities; and **Educational Programming** for unemployed or underemployed adults (temporarily suspended due to public health measures). These initiatives are funded in part from proceeds from the Center's on-site Thrift Store, with donations, grants, endowments, and fundraisers comprising the remainder.

Under COVID-19 public health guidelines, the Jonnycake Center of Westerly has regrettably scaled back its public event fundraising initiatives in 2020 and reduced its Thrift Store's operating hours, impeding the organization's potential to raise funds to keep the Food Pantry fully stocked. Thanks to the \$7,500 donation from the Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation, the Food Pantry can purchase 75,000 pounds of meals and ingredients from the Rhode Island Community Food Bank and other community partners, ensuring that the Pantry's shelves will remain fully stocked, and neighbors in need will not have to go hungry .

"We are incredibly grateful for the Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation's support," said **Lee Eastbourne**, Jonnycake Center of Westerly Executive Director. "This has been an especially challenging year, and amid job losses and reduced incomes, the reality is that more friends and neighbors than ever are coming to rely on the Jonnycake Food Pantry for extra help. The \$7,500 grant allows us to continue to meet increased demand, even if client numbers continue to rise. We are strongly bolstered against food insecurity for the foreseeable future, thanks in large part to this wonderful grant."

Founded in 2006, the Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation is an independent 501(c)3 organization powered by Dunkin' and the generosity of Dunkin' franchisees, partners, employees and guests. The Foundation's mission is to provide the simple joys of childhood to kids battling hunger or illness. In September 2020, the Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation activated \$1 million in emergency hunger relief grants for underserved communities. Find out more at JoyInChildhoodFoundation.org.

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, or its holiday-time Adopt-a-Family program for children, 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.

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