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**Rhode Island Foundation Awards \$20,000 in COVID Response Funding to Jonnycake Center of Westerly**

**Westerly, RI – The Jonnycake Center of Westerly** announced it has received a **\$20,000 grant** from the **Rhode Island Foundation** for **COVID-19 response funding**. The grant is being used to help the Jonnycake Center provide direct service to people in need 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 233,000 meals to the community in 2019-20; **Social Services**, which distributed over \$111,000 in emergency financial assistance to nearly 3,000 local residents in the last year; a **Community Garden** which provides sustainably-farmed fresh produce for its own Food Pantry and pantries of peer agencies; **Volunteer Opportunities** that welcome people of all ages and abilities; **Educational Initiatives**, including training for underemployed adults (temporarily paused during the pandemic); and a public-facing **Thrift Store**, which provides approximately 50% of the funding necessary for the Center to stay operational.

The \$20,000 in COVID-19 response funding from the Rhode Island Foundation will help the Center's Food Pantry procure up to **100 tons of food** from the Rhode Island Community Food Bank and other partners. The grant also greatly bolsters the Social Service department's ability to continue providing **emergency financial assistance** for neighbors whose incomes have been diminished due to the pandemic and are struggling to pay for rent, mortgages, utilities, and other critical bills.

"Many among us have been impacted from the ongoing effects of the pandemic, but the Rhode Island Foundation has responded by giving generously to safeguard those most at risk of hunger and crisis," said **Lee Eastbourne**, Jonnycake Center of Westerly Executive Director. "This \$20,000 grant goes a very long way in ensuring that our neighbors will stay warm and fed, especially with the onset of winter. Rhode Islanders are fortunate to have the Rhode Island Foundation working to protect the most vulnerable in our state's communities."

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rhode Island Foundation has been helping those in need by providing needed funds to Rhode Island non-profits at the forefront of the COVID-19 response. This funding complements the work of public health officials by expanding local capacity to address the outbreak's social, health, and economic impacts in the short and long term. Visit [RIFoundation.org](http://RIFoundation.org) or call (401) 274-4564 to learn more.

To learn more about the Jonnycake Center of Westerly, visit [jonnycake.org](http://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](http://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](http://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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