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Jonnycake Center of Westerly Receives \$25,000 Grant from Forrest and Frances Lattner Foundation

Westerly, RI – The Jonnycake Center of Westerly announced it has received a **\$25,000 grant** from the Forrest C. and Frances H. Lattner Foundation. These crucial funds are being used to help the Center provide direct service to residents in need, especially amid ongoing economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Jonnycake Center of Westerly is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization 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; **Holiday Gifts and Meals**, which served over 1,500 struggling residents and children in 2020; a seasonal **Community Garden**, which provides sustainably-farmed fresh produce for its own Food Pantry and pantries of peer agencies; a seasonal **No-Cost Farmer's Market** providing nutrition for neighbors in need; **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 7,000 square-foot **Thrift Store**, which provides approximately 50% of the funding necessary for the Center to stay operational.

The \$25,000 grant from the Forrest C. and Frances H. Lattner Foundation will help the Center's Food Pantry procure up to **125 tons of food** from the Rhode Island Community Food Bank and other partners. The grant also bolsters the Social Services department ability to continue providing **emergency financial assistance for rent, mortgages, heat, utilities**, and other **critical bills** for those who are struggling or living with reduced opportunities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"More of our family, friends, and neighbors are facing increased hardships as a result of the continuing COVID crisis," said **Lee Eastbourne**, Jonnycake Center of Westerly Executive Director. "This wonderful grant from the Forrest and Frances Lattner Foundation makes a huge difference allowing us to provide direct service to those most at risk. We are grateful for their support in ensuring that our entire community can stay warm, fed, and cared for, especially during these winter months."

Established in 2006, the Forrest C. and Frances H. Lattner Foundation gives in support of education, environment, and health and social services.

To learn about the Jonnycake Center of Westerly, visit jonnycake.org, call (401) 377-8069, or visit 23 Industrial Drive in Westerly, RI during operating hours. 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

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