



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Jonnycake Center of Westerly Receives Additional \$5,000 Donation from Anonymous Local Donor,
Made in the Spirit of Inspiring Others**

Westerly, RI – The Jonnycake Center of Westerly announced it has received a second \$5,000 donation from a local donor who wishes to remain anonymous. The donation was made in the spirit of inspiring others to support the Jonnycake Center of Westerly, a Westerly-area non-profit Social Services organization and Food Pantry.

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**, sales from which provides approximately 50% of the funding necessary for the Center to stay operational.

The Jonnycake Center of Westerly first received an [unsolicited \\$5,000 donation](#) from a concerned family in the Westerly area in October 2020. In a note accompanying their donation, the donor said that while they had been fortunate to not have been much financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, they saw that many of their neighbors were badly struggling amid trying economic times. The donor felt that if they made a large donation in support of the Jonnycake Center of Westerly and generated media interest, news of their donation might encourage others with means to support the non-profit social services organization as well.

In the weeks following the initial announcement of the anonymous donation, the Westerly-area community responded with unsurpassed generosity. The Center was pleased to receive an upswing in local unsolicited donations, which proved to be critical in helping the Center fund its holiday gift and meals program for underserved neighbors and their children. These donations also made it possible for the Jonnycake Center of Westerly's Social Services office to continue offering strong emergency financial assistance well into the new year.

The second unsolicited \$5,000 donation from the same donor comes at an especially critical time for the Center, as financial donations from the community traditionally slow after the end of the holiday season, but the need for service remains high. In February 2021, the issue is compounded by the fact that the Center is still unable to hold any public fundraising support events. In a note accompanying their second donation, the donor expressed the same wish as their first – that local media interest could drive more donations for the Center over the winter months.

"We were extremely grateful to receive \$5,000 from this local family in October, but their second \$5,000 donation has truly amazed us," said **Lee Eastbourne**, Jonnycake Center of Westerly Executive Director. "Many, many more who are struggling will be able to secure emergency assistance to continue affording their rent, mortgages, heating, and utility bills, and our Food Pantry can purchase up to 50,000 pounds of food to ensure that no neighbor has to go hungry. Once again, the Westerly community has come through in support of those most in need in these very difficult times."

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](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), or call (401) 377-8069.

A Non-Profit Charitable Organization

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