



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Matt Levy**  
**Social Media & Marketing Manager**  
**MLevy@Jonnycake.org**  
**(401) 377-8069 x116**  
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**Jonnycake Center of Westerly Receives \$6,000 in Funding from National Grid**

**Westerly, RI – The Jonnycake Center of Westerly** announced it has received **\$6,000 in grants from National Grid to help alleviate food insecurity** in the Westerly, RI area. These crucial funds are being used to provide direct service to residents in need through a variety of food programs amid the 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 \$6,000 in grants from National Grid will help the Center's Food Pantry procure up to **30 tons of food** from the Rhode Island Community Food Bank and other partners. The Jonnycake Center of Westerly's Food Pantry is open five days per week and offers clients a wide variety of produce, groceries, and meals. In addition, the Pantry offers "Power Pack" meal kits for local school-age children on weekends and school holidays. During the summer months, "SPLASH" meals are provided so that no school-age child has to go hungry in lieu of school meals. The Pantry also makes hygienic supplies and pet food available at no cost. New clients are always welcome.

"We are very thankful for National Grid and their constant support of those in need in our service area," said **Lee Eastbourne**, Jonnycake Center of Westerly Executive Director. "With these latest grants to fight food insecurity, we can make progress in addressing hunger in southern Rhode Island and ensure that underserved children and adults will continue to have access to high-quality, no-cost nutrition. We are grateful for all support that leads to a healthier, better-sustained community."

Established in 1990, National Grid is committed to safeguarding our global environment for future generations and providing all customers with the highest standards of service. Find out more at [NationalGrid.com](https://www.nationalgrid.com).

To learn about the Jonnycake Center of Westerly, visit [jonnycake.org](https://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](https://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](https://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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23 Industrial Drive P.O. Box 273 Westerly, RI 02891 401.377.8069 [www.jonnycake.org](https://www.jonnycake.org) [mail@jonnycake.org](mailto:mail@jonnycake.org)

