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**Jonnycake Center of Westerly Celebrates Selection as
April 2021 Beneficiary of Westerly Stop & Shop's Community Bag Program**
Earth-Friendly Initiative Reduces Plastic Waste While Supporting Local Non-Profit Org

Westerly, RI – The Jonnycake Center of Westerly has been selected as a **beneficiary** of the **Stop & Shop Community Bag Program** for the month of **April 2021**. During this time, the Center will automatically receive a \$1 donation from Stop & Shop every time a \$2.50 reusable Community Bag is purchased at the **Westerly, RI Stop & Shop**, unless otherwise directed by the customer through the Giving Tag attached to each bag.

The Stop & Shop Community Bag Program, which launched in May 2019, is a reusable bag program that facilitates local support with the goal to make a difference in the communities where shoppers live and work.

The Jonnycake Center of Westerly was selected as the April 2021 beneficiary of the program by store leadership at the Stop & Shop located at 149 Franklin Street, Westerly, RI.

"We are greatly appreciative of Stop & Shop for choosing us as a beneficiary of this wonderful program," said **Lee Eastbourne**, Executive Director. "Every dollar allows the Jonnycake Food Pantry to purchase up to 10 pounds of food to fight food insecurity in our community, and the funds also help our Social Services office provide emergency financial assistance for neighbors facing crisis. With Earth Day approaching, we are proud to be part of a program that helps protect the environment and reduces plastic consumption."

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. Learn more at jonnycake.org.

Visit the Westerly Stop & Shop at 149 Franklin Street in Westerly between April 1 and April 30 to purchase a Community Bag in support of the Jonnycake Center of Westerly. To make a financial donation towards the Center's Food Pantry or Social Services office, visit jonnycake.org/donate-2 or call (401) 315-4584. Every dollar makes a positive impact.

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/jonnycake.org), follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/jonnycake.org) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/jonnycake.org), or call (401) 377-8069.

A Non-Profit Charitable Organization

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