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Jonnycake Center of Westerly Receives \$22,500 for Emergency Food Supplies

Westerly, RI – The Jonnycake Center of Westerly announced it has received **\$22,500 in grants** to purchase and distribute emergency food supplies for southern Rhode Islanders in need amid the COVID-19 crisis. These funds advance the Center’s Food Pantry’s ability to purchase food in bulk from the Rhode Island Community Food Bank and local partners, ensuring that local individuals, families, and children will continue to have access to no-cost produce, meats, dairy, non-perishables, pastas, grains, baby food, and other food and sanitary supplies.

Grants to fight food insecurity came from the **Boston Red Sox Foundation** (\$1,000), **Washington Trust Charitable Foundation** (\$2,500), **Acorn Hill Foundation** (\$3,000), and **Collette Foundation** (\$7,500). Funding specifically for food supplies for children came from the **Adelaide Dawson Lynch Memorial Trust** (\$1,000) and **Billy Andrade-Brad Faxon Charities** (\$7,500).

The COVID pandemic has resulted in an unparalleled rise in food insecurity faced by residents in the Jonnycake Center of Westerly’s service area. Often, the burden is most acute on those who were already at risk of severe financial struggles.

To alleviate the challenge, the Jonnycake Center of Westerly makes **food and supplies available at no cost** for registered clients. The Center’s Food Pantry is open five days per week and **welcomes new clients** (based on residence and other factors) daily. The Pantry offers programs specific for school-age children, including **“Power Pack”** and **“SPLASH”** meal kits that bridge the gap in providing nutrition for kids during remote schooldays, weekends, holidays, school breaks, and summers.

The Pantry also manages and operates a **Community Garden** in Charlestown, Rhode Island, harvesting sustainably-grown fresh produce for the Center’s Pantry and pantries of peer agencies. During the summer months, a seasonal **no-cost Farmer’s Market** makes fresh fruit and vegetables available for clients.

Pandemic protocols have been put in place to allow the Center to continue feeding clients as safely as possible through the COVID-19 crisis.

“The past year has been so hard for many of our friends and neighbors, but in these tough times, supporters have risen to the occasion” said **Sarah Shaw**, Food Pantry Manager. “Every day, concerned people and organizations in the community donate food, funds, and their time so that the Jonnycake Food Pantry can serve our neighbors in need. The \$22,500 in food assistance grants has allowed us to purchase up to 225,000 pounds, or 112.5 tons of food. Thanks to these grants, we can make a big impact in fighting hunger among the most vulnerable in our service area.”

The Jonnycake Center of Westerly Food Pantry provided over 233,000 meals to the community in 2019-20. Other primary services include **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 residents and children in 2020; **Volunteer Opportunities** that welcome people of all ages and abilities; and a public-facing 7,000 square-foot **Thrift Store** which provides approximately 50% of the funding necessary for the Center to stay operational.

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) 315-4708.

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.

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