



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Matt Levy

Social Media & Marketing Manager

MLevy@Jonnycake.org

(401) 377-8069 x116

August 6, 2021

Jonnycake Center of Westerly and Partners to Host School Supply Giveaway August 16 in Westerly
Backpacks, school supplies, hygienic essentials offered at no cost for families of children in need

Westerly, RI – The Jonnycake Center of Westerly announced that it will host a **School Supply Giveaway** on **Monday, August 16, 2021** from **11am to 2pm** in the Center's **rear parking lot** (23 Industrial Drive in Westerly). Staff and volunteers will distribute **backpacks, back-to-school supplies, and safety/hygienic essentials** to local families of underserved children. Face masks and social distancing will be required, including those who have been COVID-19 vaccinated.

The 2021 School Supply Giveaway is made possible through a partnership with **Wood River Health Services, Back to School Celebration of Rhode Island, Opening Doors for Westerly's Children, and Washington Trust**. These organizations previously partnered with the Jonnycake Center of Westerly for the 2020 School Supply Giveaway. During the 2020 event, nearly 300 backpacks filled with notebooks, binders, folders, writing utensils, and more were distributed for Westerly-area children in need.

Backpacks and supplies for the 2021 Giveaway have been collected and donated by individuals and workplace/service/worship group donations.

"With many families in our service area continuing to struggle to make ends meet, we felt it was imperative to offer backpacks and school supplies at no cost for their children," said **Lee Eastbourne**, Jonnycake Center of Westerly Executive Director. "The Giveaway event in 2020 resulted in hundreds of local kids getting the supplies they required for success in the traditional or at-home classroom. We hope that the 2021 Giveaway leads to even more children beginning the new school year well-equipped for academic achievement. We are very grateful to our partners for helping make this year's School Supply Giveaway possible."

Wood River Health Services' President and CEO **Alison Croke** is happy to support the School Supply Giveaway again this year. "As a Federally Qualified Health Center, Wood River shares the Jonnycake Center of Westerly's mission to improve the quality of life in our community," she stated. "This event is an opportunity to remind parents about all of the resources that are available to support their children's educational and health care needs."

"We are once again excited to collaborate with these amazing partner organizations and to serve the children and their families in the community," said **Jodie Kluver Koretski**, Executive Director of Opening Doors for Westerly's Children. "This event promotes a segment of our mission to provide essential materials and opportunities to support academic achievement. Thank you to all in the community who donate towards our efforts."

"The Back to School Celebration of RI is excited to collaborate with Jonnycake Center of Westerly and the other partners in this effort to prepare our students for a new school year. The most important economic investment we can make is an investment in education. As school starts, we are pleased to be part of such a unifying effort," said **Grace Gonzalez**, President of the Back to School Celebration of RI.

The School Supply Giveaway will take place rain or shine in the Center's rear parking lot at 23 Industrial Drive in Westerly. Please visit jonnycake.org and follow the Jonnycake Center of Westerly's social media for the most current information.

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) 377-8069.

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

23 Industrial Drive P.O. Box 273 Westerly, RI 02891 401.377.8069 www.jonnycake.org mail@jonnycake.org

