



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Jonnycake Center of Westerly Celebrates Selection as Westerly Stop & Shop's
Community Bag Program Beneficiary for December 2021**

Westerly, RI – The Jonnycake Center of Westerly has been selected as the beneficiary of the Westerly, RI **Stop & Shop's Community Bag program** for the month of **December 2021**.

Stop & Shop's Community Bag program, which launched in May 2019, is a reusable bag program that facilitates community support with the goal of making a difference in the communities in which shoppers live and work.

The Jonnycake Center of Westerly was selected as the beneficiary of this program for the month of December 2021 by store leadership at the Stop & Shop location at **149 Franklin Street in Westerly**. **From December 1 through 31, the Jonnycake Center of Westerly's Food Pantry will receive a \$1 donation every time a \$2.50 reusable Community Bag is purchased from this Stop & Shop**, unless otherwise directed by the shopper through the Giving Tag attached to the bag.

Each dollar donated enables the Center's Food Pantry to purchase up to **10 pounds of food to feed neighbors in crisis**. The fiscal donations also make it possible for the Center's Social Services office to provide emergency financial assistance for neighbors struggling to afford rent and mortgages, heating, utilities, medical bills, and other necessary expenses.

"The Jonnycake Center of Westerly is humbled to again be selected as the beneficiary of the Westerly Stop & Shop's Community Bag program," said **Lee Eastbourne**, Executive Director. "Stop & Shop has proven to be a dependable partner in the effort to fight hunger in southern Rhode Island, and the Westerly location in particular is an invaluable supporter of the Jonnycake Center of Westerly's Food Pantry. As we close out 2021, the fiscal support we look forward to receiving from the Community Bag initiative will help us start the new year strong. This is a great opportunity to reduce our environmental impact while raising funds to benefit neighbors and families in need."

The Jonnycake Center of Westerly previously was previously the beneficiary of the Westerly Stop & Shop's Community Bag program in April and July of 2021. The Center was also a beneficiary of the Pawcatuck, CT Stop & Shop's "Bloomin' 4 Good" bouquet fundraiser program in June and November.

The Jonnycake Center of Westerly is a 501(c)(3) non-profit based in Westerly, RI. The Center's primary services include its **Food Pantry**, which provided over 221,000 meals to the community in 2020-21; **Social Services**, which distributed over \$107,000 in emergency financial assistance to over 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 **Giving 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; and a public-facing 7,000 square-foot **Thrift Store**, open to the public 7 days per week, which provides approximately 50% of the funding necessary for the Center to stay operational. Learn more at jonnycake.org.

To make a financial donation towards the Center's Food Pantry or Social Services office, visit jonnycake.org/donate-2 or call (401) 377-8069. Every dollar makes a positive impact.

For more information about the Stop & Shop Community Bag program, please visit StopAndShop.com.

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

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