



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jonnycake Center of Westerly's Social Services Office Now Offering Birthday Presents for School-Age Children
Current and new clients can request birthday toys or gifts at no cost while supplies last

Westerly, RI – The Jonnycake Center of Westerly has announced that its **Social Services office** is now offering **birthday toys and presents** at no cost for client families with **school-age children**.

While supplies last, clients are invited to contact the Center's Social Services office to request a gift in time for their child's birthday. The gifts are in mint-condition, either brand-new or very gently-used, having been donated through the generosity of local concerned citizens, businesses, faith and service groups, and other private donors.

"The new birthday present program is an undertaking that we hope brings smiles and warmth to families who are served by our Social Services office or Food Pantry," said **Maggie Pinto**, Social Services Program Manager. "Our office served the needs of over 1,100 children in southern Rhode Island in the last year alone. Given the difficulties that kids especially have faced throughout the pandemic, we hope that we can make their birthdays a little brighter, as well as ease the burden faced by their parents. Any current or new client is invited to take advantage of this program while we have a supply of toys and gifts to offer."

To learn more and request a birthday gift, please contact Jonnycake Center of Westerly Social Services:

- Email SocialServices@jonnycake.org
- Call (401) 377-8069, option 1
- Visit 23 Industrial Drive in Westerly during operating hours

The Jonnycake Center of Westerly's Food Pantry and Social Services office are open:

- Mondays: 12pm to 3pm
- Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, & Saturdays: 9am to 12pm
- Thursday additional hours: 3pm to 6pm
- Sundays: closed

Face masks and social distancing are still required for all clients, including those who have been COVID-19 vaccinated or boosted. For the latest policies, please visit jonnycake.org.

The Jonnycake Center of Westerly's Social Services office provides **emergency financial assistance** to qualified residents in crisis situations who need support with rent and mortgages, heating and utilities, medical bills, and other critical expenses. During fiscal year 2020-2021, the Social Services office distributed **over \$107,000 to more than 304 client households**.

Other programs from the Jonnycake Center of Westerly include a fully-stocked **Food Pantry, Holiday Gifts and Meals**, which served over 1,400 residents and children in 2021; 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 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.

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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