



# CHARITIES Committee

Ralph Orleck, Chairman



The RISAA Charities Committee exists to lend a helping hand to others in need, and is a way of giving back to our community.

## THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTION

# Jonnycake Center of Westerly

Report by  
**TOM  
MEADE**



Serving four communities in South County, the Jonnycake Center of Westerly receives this month's donation of \$300 from RISAA.

"We serve about 3,000 people each year," says **Lee Eastbourne**, Executive Director of the center. "The majority are families with children."

The Jonnycake Center of Westerly has many facets:

**Thrift Shop.** Even on weekdays, the thrift shop is filled with bargain hunters seeking furniture and accessories, clothing books, dinnerware and silverware, dolls, and many other items.

During a recent visit, a young mother said her elementary-school-age son is growing so fast that she has to buy him larger sneakers every six months. Her solution? Buy gently-used shoes from the Jonnycake Center at a fraction of the retail price of new shoes. Nearby, a pregnant woman was shopping for baby clothing.

The center also provides goods for free to families in Westerly, Charlestown, Hopkinton and Richmond.



**Lee Eastbourne, Executive Director of the Jonnycake Center accepted the RISAA donation.**

**(below) The Jonnycake Center on Industrial Drive, Westerly, RI**



Last year, Eastbourne says, the center provided 1,754 household items and 4,264 items of clothing to families in need.

**Food Pantry.** In the back of the building, volunteers help area residents fill bags with groceries, toiletries and pet food.

Last year, the center provided 214,637 meals. Donated food totaled 82,935 pounds, and the center bought 172,111 pounds of food.

Volunteers gave 6,274 toiletry items and 3,048 pounds of pet food to clients last year.

**Social Services.** The Jonnycake Center of Westerly also provided direct financial assistance, totaling \$116,807, to families in need. The money pays for housing, heating, utilities, education and other needs.

The Jonnycake Center of Westerly needs donations, volunteers, and interns.

For more information, visit the Jonnycake Center of Westerly online at [jonnycake.org](http://jonnycake.org), on Facebook, or in person at 23 Industrial Drive in Westerly.

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