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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2013

SENATE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING THE JONNYCAKE CENTER AT THE BEGINNING OF ITS 40TH YEAR
OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Introduced By: Senators Sosnowski, and Cool Rumsey

Date Introduced: March 27, 2013

Referred To: Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar

1 WHEREAS, When our state’s economy falters, families and individuals who have been
2 struggling to get by often begin to fail in their efforts to secure everyday essentials. In the early
3 1970s, the need for food and other necessities for many people around our state became critical;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, In South County, a local group composed of businessmen, clergy,
6 professionals, and concerned citizens, who had been getting together regularly to discuss
7 solutions to these pressing social needs, decided to form “The Jonnycake Group.” Named after
8 an essential food staple from colonial times, the founding group members were united in their
9 goal to provide basic necessities to local people in need; and

10 WHEREAS, On April 22nd of 1974, the Jonnycake Center officially opened from a store
11 front on Main Street in Wakefield. As the first of its kind in Rhode Island, the center provided
12 clothing, furniture, and classes in addition to food, and was staffed seven days a week by an all-
13 volunteer work force; and

14 WHEREAS, The mission of the Jonnycake Center is to “improve the quality of life for
15 individuals and families by providing comprehensive assistance to those in need of food,
16 clothing, and household items and through individual and systemic advocacy for our clients”; and

17 WHEREAS, Today, the Jonnycake Center’s Emergency Food Pantry is located at the
18 rotary in Peace Dale. It provides nutritionally balanced food baskets to individuals and families
19 once a month. The food baskets contain enough milk, eggs, and frozen meats to prepare three

1 meals a day for an entire week for all household members; and

2 WHEREAS, In addition, the organization now operates a retail “thrift” store which
3 generates revenue that is used toward the Emergency Food Pantry. The store is open to the
4 public, but it is also a source of free clothing and household items for those in need; and

5 WHEREAS, For almost four decades the Jonnycake Center has thrived and expanded due
6 entirely to the generosity of many individuals and organizations who, like the original founders,
7 are working “to eliminate hunger in our community” and helping to build a brighter tomorrow for
8 our state; now, therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
10 hereby celebrates and applauds the Jonnycake Center as it enters its 40th year of serving the
11 community and recognizes the outstanding efforts of the hundreds of volunteers who, over the
12 course of the past four decades, have selflessly dedicated their time and energies to eliminate
13 hunger and provide assistance to those who are less fortunate within their community; and be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
16 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Katherine Horoschak, President
17 of the Jonnycake Center Board of Directors.

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