Annual Black Friday Benefit Concert at The Kate on November 23rd
to support The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries

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The Annual Black Friday Benefit Concert will take place on Friday, November 23rd at 8pm at The Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center.

With an emphasis on melody, lyricism and harmony The Meadows Brothers, Ebin-Rose Trio, Moving Target, Lauren Agnelli & Dave Rave, and Carter Gowrie & Friends will gather to play for this special concert at The Kate to raise funds for The Shoreline Soup Kitchen & Pantries. All ticket and CD proceeds will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the Gowrie Group Challenge which directly benefits the Shoreline Soup Kitchen & Pantries.

Carter Gowrie, Gowrie Group’s CEO, “This is one of my best nights of the year. I get to play music with my favorite musicians at my favorite venue, The Kate. And the best part is, for $25 you get to enjoy the music and Gowrie Group matches your ticket purchase with an additional $25 donation to the Shoreline Soup Kitchen. That $50 buys 150 meals served by the Shoreline Soup Kitchen to local people in need. What a perfect scenario. And we will be done by 10pm, so you still have time for Black Friday shopping. Please buy a ticket and join us for some fun music!”

Purchase Concert Tickets: Tickets are $25* and are available online at thekate.org, or by calling the Kate Box Office at 860.510.0453. Tickets will also be available at the door.

The Annual Black Friday Benefit Concert is an important component of the Annual Gowrie Group Challenge which launched on November 1st and runs through December 31st. Through the Gowrie Group Challenge, Gowrie challenges their local community of businesses and friends to team together to raise money to benefit The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries (SSKP). This year, Gowrie Group has set an ambitious goal of raising $200,000 for the SSKP. Since the Gowrie Challenge began in 2004, more than $1,500,000 has been raised to benefit the SSKP.

Gowrie Group launched this year’s Challenge with a $30,000 matching gift. Five local companies have stepped forward as Partner Sponsors: LC Doane Company, Tower Labs, BrandTech, Lenny & Joe's Fish
Tale, and Sound Rigging Services. Together, the partner sponsors provide an additional $25,000 in matching funds.

Whitney Peterson, Gowrie Group’s VP of Marketing, shared these thoughts, “Supporting the Gowrie Group Challenge and attending the Annual Black Friday Benefit Concert are powerful, direct ways to help end hunger along the Connecticut shoreline.” Hunger is real in our communities. Last year, the SSKP distributed over one million meals through five pantries and nine hot meal sites to people in need. Over 8,000 of our neighbors in need registered at their food pantries last year. The 2018 ALICE Report** showed that more than 400,000 Connecticut households have earnings above the Federal Poverty Level but below a basic cost-of-living threshold.

Ways You Can Help Support the Shoreline Soup Kitchen’s & Pantries & Gowrie Challenge:

1. **Attend the Black Friday Benefit Concert at The Kate:** Friday November 23rd at 8PM at The Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center. Tickets are $25* and are available online at www.thekate.org, or by calling the Box Office at 860.510.0453.

2. **Donate to the Gowrie Annual Challenge:** Donations can be made online at SSKP.org (designate “Gowrie Challenge”), or by mail to The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries, Attn: Gowrie Group Challenge, P.O. Box 804, Essex, Connecticut, 06426.

3. **Attend the Dancing to End Hunger Performance:** “Ahavah: Story of Christmas,” Dec 1st and 2nd at The Morgan School in Clinton (proceeds benefit the Gowrie Challenge).

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The Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center. The Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center is a non-profit performing arts organization located in an historic theatre/town hall on Main Street in Old Saybrook. Originally opened in 1911, the building is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. After state-of-the art renovations, the center includes a 250-seat theatre that presents work in several genres including music, theater, opera, dance, comedy, film, and a variety of children’s programming. thekate.org | 860.510.0453

The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries. Since 1989, providing food and fellowship to those in need in the towns of Chester, Clinton, Deep River, East Lyme, Essex, Killingworth, Lyme, Madison, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, and Westbrook. shorelinesoupkitchens.org

Wyeth Architects. A full service architectural firm focused on sustainable building practices for all size projects. Wyeth Architects is a LEED firm and Passive House Certified. wyetharchitects.com | 860.526.5111

Acoustic Music. A group of guitar lovers and musicians that have allowed their enthusiasms for the instruments to get entirely out of control. AcousticMusic.Org was created in 1990 as an organization to allow production and copyrighting of original music. acousticmusic.org | 203.458.2525

* Black Friday Benefit Ticket prices are $25 plus box office fees.
** The Middlesex United Way’s 2018 ALICE Report. ALICE, which stands for Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed, is defined as individuals or families who have earnings above the federal poverty level, but below a basic cost-of-living threshold.