Gowrie Group Raises Over One Million Dollars to Benefit the Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries

Press Release: For immediate release
Date: January 28, 2016
Company: Gowrie Group
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The Gowrie Group Challenge has passed the “Million Dollar Mark!! Over the past 12 years the annual Gowrie Challenge has raised over one million dollars for The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries. Donations from this year’s challenge (which ended 1/15/16) reached over $150,000, breaking all previous records for total dollars raised. Hitting the million dollar mark means over 3 million meals in total have been provided for those in need through the Gowrie Group Challenge.

The Gowrie Group Challenge is an annual fundraising challenge where Gowrie Group announces a $25,000 dollar for dollar matching donation to the Shoreline Soup Kitchens. The matching approach doubles the impact of generous donation from local businesses and individuals. This year, over 400 individuals and companies donated to the challenge. The contributions are used to fill the shelves of the SSKP’s five pantries and serve meals to those who are struggling to feed themselves and their families at the SSKP’s eight meal sites.

Gowrie Group was proud to have The Safety Zone, LC Doane Company, Tower Labs, Lenny & Joe’s Fish Tale, and the Tariq Farid Foundation as named Partner Sponsors, who provided additional matching funds.

Maintaining and engaging new donors is critical to the success of this annual effort. The Challenge is lucky to have the generous support of the morning radio personality, Bob Muscatel, from WLIS/WMRD who spreads the word about the challenge and hunger on the shoreline all year long from his station.
Carter Gowrie, CEO and Founder of Gowrie Group upon hearing the news of the challenge surpassing the million dollar mark sent an enthusiastic message to staff entitled “A Great Way to Begin 2016!” He later shared this message, “Since 2004 we have partnered with the Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries to feed our neighbors and those in need. I am extremely proud to be part of a local community that comes together each year to support this challenge and to have raised over One Million Dollars to benefit the SSKP.”

Lindas Dillon, a Shoreline Soup Kitchen board member and longtime Gowrie Group employee shared, “What we accomplish through the Gowrie Challenge touches people of all walks of life. Over $150,000 raised this year is just amazing. The SSKP provides such a basic need, feeding our neighbors when the tides change for them, giving them hope and satisfying their hunger. I am so proud to be working at Gowrie, and so appreciative of our relationship with SSKP!”

Gowrie Group was thankful to have two exciting community events donate proceeds to the Gowrie Challenge again this year. The “Shine a Light” Concert at The Kate held in November raised a resounding $5,076 and Gowrie Group doubled this donation. The ballet of “Ahavah: The Story of Christmas” performed at the Morgan School in Clinton for Dancing to End Hunger also benefited the Gowrie Challenge with a generous matched donation of $7,500.

Many Gowrie Group employees not only donate money to the challenge each year, but also donate time and services to soup kitchens across New England year round. Gowrie Group employees host and serve a lunch at the SSKP’s Old Saybrook meal-site each summer. Additionally, employees work together to host Food-Drives every holiday season at each of Gowrie Group’s locations: Westbrook CT, Darien CT, Newport RI, North Kingstown RI, Marshfield MA, and Manchester NH.

Patty Dowling, Executive Director of the Shoreline Soup Kitchen shared, “The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries is so grateful for Gowrie Group’s support, and all those who contributed to the Gowrie Challenge this year. This campaign shows the commitment of our community to caring for others. On behalf of the thousands of those we serve every year, I say thank you!”

Gowrie Group and The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries are proud of all that they have accomplished in the past twelve years of partnership, and look forward to continuing the annual Gowrie Group Challenges in future years.

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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. [www.shorelinesoupkitchens.org](http://www.shorelinesoupkitchens.org)

**A special thank you to our 2015 Gowrie Challenge partner and media sponsors:** The Safety Zone, LC Doane Company, Tower Labs, Lenny & Joe's Fish Tale, and Tariq Farid Foundation. **Media Sponsors:** Shore Publishing and WLIS/WMRD.