Gowrie Group Launches 11th Annual Challenge to Raise $125,000 to Benefit the Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. November 15, 2014. Westbrook, CT

Giving back to the Connecticut community in a significant way each year is one of Gowrie Group’s most important outreach initiatives. For the past 11 years, since 2004, Gowrie Group has focused much of its charitable giving on supporting The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries (SSKP). The SSKP's mission is to provide food and fellowship to neighbors in need who reside in Chester, Clinton, Deep River, East Lyme, Essex, Killingworth, Lyme, Madison, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, and Westbrook.

For 25 years, the SSKP has provided food and fellowship to people in need along the shoreline. Last year they distributed more food than ever before – over 1 million pounds of groceries. So far this year their food pantries have seen an 18% increase in the number of neighbors coming for help and a 7% increase in the amount of food distributed. With such great need in our community, the SSKP depends on our help more than ever before.

In response to this need, Gowrie Group is launching their 11th annual matching challenge with a $25,000 donation to the Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries. Five local companies - LC Doane Company, The Safety Zone, Tower Labs, All Waste Inc., and Andre Prost - have signed on as Partner Sponsors and are donating an additional $22,500 in matching funds.

This year, Gowrie Group is challenging the community of local businesses and friends to help them meet and exceed their largest goal ever - raising $125,000. The 2014 Gowrie Group Challenge runs from November 15th to December 31st.

Carter Gowrie, CEO of Gowrie Group said "We are extremely proud that over the past 11 years we have raised nearly $900,000 to benefit The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries. That equates to providing food for more than 2 million meals to our neighbors in need of food services. We greatly appreciate the donations made by so many of our clients and friends each and every year. I look forward to this year, our 11th year, being the most successful challenge ever."

“The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries is honored to receive the donations raised from the Gowrie Group Challenge. Today, and for the last 11 years those who heard this call to help, responded with a generous heart, reaching those in need, and assuring our community is fed. On behalf of the thousands of community members we serve every year, I say thank you!” Patty Dowling, Executive Director.

Throughout the year, Gowrie Group and its employees donate time and services to soup kitchens and pantries across New England. Each summer, Gowrie employees prepare and serve a lunch at a meal site in Old Saybrook, CT. Before the holidays, Gowrie employees host canned food drives at each office location – Westbrook CT, Darien CT, Newport RI, North Kingstown RI, Marshfield, MA, Manchester, NH – and donate the collected goods to local entities. Employees and their families also help out regularly at a variety of food pantries and meal service locations across the region.
“Gowrie Group’s Rhode Island-based employees are also longtime supporters of Amos House, Rhode Island’s largest soup kitchen,” shared Brad Preston, Gowrie Group SVP & Principal. “Gowrie Group is fortunate to have employees across our entire organization that truly care about the communities where they live and work.”

Two special events will also benefit the Gowrie Group Challenge and the Shoreline Soup Kitchens this year. On December 6th and 7th, “Dancing to End Hunger,” a ballet performance of “Ahavah: The Story of Christmas,” will take place at the Morgan School in Clinton. On December 19th the “Shoreline Soup Kitchen Benefit Concert” will take place at The Kate, in Old Saybrook.

Donations can be made online at www.shorelinesoupkitchens.org; click the “Donate” button and select “Gowrie Challenge.” Donations by mail should be sent to: The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries, Attn: Gowrie Group Challenge, P.O. Box 804, Essex, Connecticut 06426.

Picture: Gowrie Group Team serving lunch at the Old Saybrook meal site location.

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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