FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE. November 16, 2015. Westbrook, CT

“I never expected to hit such tough times, but thank God for the food pantry.” This message was written by a shoreline resident and guest of The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries, during a recent family financial crisis. The Shoreline Soup Kitchens gave her the food she needed, no questions asked. Helping shoreline families like hers who are facing food insecurity is one of Gowrie Group’s most important outreach initiatives.

That desire to give back to the community in a meaningful way is why for the past 11 years Gowrie Group has focused much of its charitable giving on supporting The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries (SSKP). Since 1989 SSKP has provided 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. Last year they distributed more food than ever before – over 1 million pounds of groceries. This year the number of people in need continues to rise, and the SSKP has had a 14% increase in the amount of food distributed at their five local pantries.

In response to this need, **Gowrie Group is launching their 12th annual matching challenge with a $25,000 donation to the Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries.** Five local companies - The Safety Zone, LC Doane Company, Tower Labs, Lenny & Joe’s Fish Tale, and the Tariq Farid Foundation – are providing 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 an ambitious goal - raising $125,000. **Meeting this year’s goal will put the lifetime total amount raised by the Gowrie Group Shoreline Soup Kitchen Challenge over the Million Dollar mark.** The 2015 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 almost $1,000,000 to benefit those in need in our community and support the great work the SSKP does. We greatly appreciate the donations made by so many of our clients, local businesses, and friends each and every year. I look forward to us together breaking the Million dollar mark this year.”

“The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries is so grateful for all those who support the Gowrie Challenge. Every 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!” 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 an SSKP 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.
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.

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.

Two special events will benefit the Gowrie Group Shoreline Soup Kitchen Challenge.

- On Black Friday, November 27th the “Shoreline Soup Kitchen Benefit Concert” will take place at The Kate, in Old Saybrook.
- On December 5th and 6th, Dancing to End Hunger, a ballet performance of “Ahavah: The Story of Christmas,” will take place at the Morgan School in Clinton.

Gowrie Group. Always on Watch. As one of the nation’s Top-50 independent insurance agencies, Gowrie Group provides total risk management services to individuals and organizations with complex insurance needs. Gowrie Group offers comprehensive insurance solutions matched with trusted advice and a commitment to service excellence. Gowrie Group’s portfolio of offerings includes commercial, home/auto, equine, and yacht insurance, as well as employee benefits solutions and safety services. The company’s 150+ professionals service clients across the US from offices in Westbrook CT, Darien CT, Newport RI, North Kingstown RI, and Marshfield, MA. www.gowrie.com or 800.262.8911.

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