Gowrie Group Makes $60,000 Matching Donation to Benefit The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries

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Gowrie Launches 2020 Challenge to Raise $200,000 to Benefit the Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries

Every year between November 1st and December 31st, Gowrie Group, a Division of Risk Strategies, challenges their local community of businesses and friends to team together to raise money to benefit The Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries (SSKP). This year, Gowrie Group has set an ambitious goal of raising $200,000 for the SSKP.

2020 has been a year like no other. Food pantries across the country are reporting that twice as many families are in need. At the height of the 2020 COVID-19 emergency this Spring, right here in our communities, Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries served double the number of pantry guests and continues to serve an additional 50% more in comparison to last year. Because the need has been so great, the SSKP distributed as much food by the end of August as they normally give out for an entire year – over 1 million pounds.

To meet this doubling of need, the Gowrie Challenge is doubling their efforts to help end hunger along the Connecticut shoreline. **To launch this year’s challenge, Gowrie Group is doubling their matching gift to $60,000, of which $30,000 is a personal pledge from Carter Gowrie.** Six local companies have stepped forward as Partner Sponsors: LC Doane Company, Tower Labs, Lenny & Joe’s Fish Tale, Sound Rigging, BrandTech Scientific, and Essex Financial. The Partner Sponsors have all increased their donations over past years, providing an additional $42,000 in matching funds. With over $100,000 in available matching funds, donations will be doubled dollar-for-dollar to help our neighbors.

Since the Gowrie Challenge began in 2004, Gowrie's efforts have raised more the $1.8 million to benefit SSKP. This year, Gowrie Group is determined to break the **Two Million Dollar Mark** of total dollars raised for the SSKP over the past 17 Gowrie Challenges.

Carter Gowrie shared, “It seems that each year the Gowrie Challenge for the Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries becomes more important. In this Pandemic year, the need to help the hungry has doubled in our own communities. In response, we have doubled our contribution and hope that you will consider doing the same. We need to make our $200,000 goal, which will deliver 500,000 meals to hungry neighbors on the shoreline.”

Amy Hollis, Executive Director of the Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries said, “As needs rose during 2020 so did our trust in the community spirit which served as a life raft enlarging to meet the need. My heart is filled with gratitude for the wide-reaching support that ensures food is available at all SSKP pantries and meal sites. Thank you to Carter Gowrie, Gowrie Group, staff and friends. You make a tangible difference in the lives of individuals.”

Throughout the year, Gowrie Group and its employees donate time and services to soup kitchens and pantries across New England. The Gowrie team works together to plan and host holiday food drives at many of the Gowrie office locations including Westbrook CT, Darien CT, Newport RI, Marshfield MA,
Annapolis MD and Manchester NH. Gowrie’s 2020 food drive will be a “Holiday Cereal Drive” focused on both kid-friendly and adult breakfast cereals.

Gowrie Group's parent company, Risk Strategies, also believes strongly in the need to give back and support local communities. Risk Strategies’ Fall 2020 charitable outreach this year, like the Gowrie Challenge, is focused on helping those experiencing food insecurity during these very difficult times.

**HOW TO DONATE TO THE GOWRIE CHALLENGE:**

Donations can be made online at: donatenow.networkforgood.org/SSKP (select “Gowrie Challenge” as the designation)

Donations can be mailed to: The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries, Attn: Gowrie Challenge, PO Box 804, Essex, CT 06426 (note “Gowrie Challenge” on the check).

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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. shorelinesoupkitchens.org