This week, **State Senator Norm Needleman (D-Essex)** granted a citation to Carter Gowrie of Essex, recognizing the decades of community service and dedication that Gowrie has committed to the surrounding shoreline towns and organizations. Most notably, Gowrie and his business, Gowrie Group, have raised more than $2.1 million for The Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries over the last sixteen years through the Gowrie Challenge. Gowrie and his company are also longtime sponsors and supporters of many local institutions including the Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center, Mystic Seaport Museum, Ivoryton Playhouse and New England Science & Sailing, among many other local institutions.

The Citation reads as follows:

"Be it hereby known to all that: The Connecticut State Senate offers its sincerest congratulations to Carter Gowrie. In recognition of your remarkable spirit of community service. That unique spirit is evidenced by the support you have given to so many worthwhile causes as well as the respect and esteem in which you are held by your family, friends and colleagues. Your selflessness has impacted countless lives for the better and the depths of your generosity will be seen throughout the community for decades to come. Thank you for all that you are, all you have done and for all that you will continue to do."

"Carter Gowrie's remarkable spirit of community service is evidenced by the support and leadership he has shown to so many worthwhile and charitable causes," said Senator Needleman. "It is because of that spirit his friends, family and colleagues hold him in the highest esteem. Mr. Gowrie has impacted countless lives in our community for the better and the effects of his generosity will be evident for decades to come."

Carter's long time sailing friend, William Sandberg, shared, "Many people in the sailing world know of Carter as an accomplished racing sailor, while others know of his long-term support of US Sailing. Not as many are aware of how many community organizations Carter and his company support. Carter and Gowrie Group’s 16-year support of the Shoreline Soup Kitchen & Pantries has helped raise over two million dollars for that single, important organization. He is the most generous person I know." Carter Gowrie is a longtime supporter of two important sailing events that Sandberg helps to run each year: the Robie Pierce Regatta for people with disabilities and The Connecticut River Leukemia Cup Regatta.

Carter Gowrie and his insurance firm Gowrie Group have, for decades, supported local charitable causes with a strong belief in giving back to the surrounding community in Westbrook and beyond. The annual Gowrie Group Challenge involves Gowrie Group donating $30,000 to The Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries (SSKP), and challenging local businesses and friends to help meet an aspirational goal of raising $200,000 or more to support the SSKP. This year, given the significant increase in demand for food services because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Challenge was even more important. The local community and sponsors stepped up to meet this need in a huge way, and the 2020 Gowrie Challenge surpassed all previous records and raised an astonishing $284,000 for the benefit of the SSKP.

Carter Gowrie, Founder of Gowrie Group, said about receiving the award from the State of CT, "Thank you so much for this CT State Citation. It is such an honor to receive. The Shoreline Soup Kitchen delivered 1.6 million meals to area families, so this is so important to us."
pounds of food to folks in our eleven shoreline towns. What an incredible undertaking! The need was up 50% in this pandemic year, and it is with sincere pride that we worked together at Gowrie Group all these years to help this great cause. Thank you to all of you who stepped up and donated in 2020 to help us greatly exceed our goal. We look forward to continuing our matching challenge to support the Shoreline Soup Kitchen in 2021.”

The long list of foundations and causes supported by Carter Gowrie and Gowrie Group include: the Mystic Seaport Museum, the New England Museum Association, the Mystic Museum of Art, the Robie Pier Regatta for people with disabilities, the Connecticut River Leukemia Cup Regatta, the Diocese of Norwich, Vista Life Innovations, US Sailing, New England Science & Sailings, Raise The Roof, Habitat For Humanity, the Connecticut Sports Foundation, the National Sailing Hall of Fame, the Connecticut and Rhode Island Marine Trades Associations, the Veteran Angler Charters, the Providence Animal Rescue League and local chambers of commerce, rotary clubs and many public safety entities.

Photo of the Citation Award ZOOM call when Carter Gowrie was presented with the State of CT Citation:

Photo (left to right): Whitney Peterson (Gowrie Group Director of Marketing), Laura MacLeod (Gowrie Group Marketing Coordinator), Amy Hollis (SSKP Executive Director), Claire Bellerjeau (SSKP Director of Development), Carol-Ann Myers (BrandTech Representative), Bill Sandberg, Stephen Brinkmann (BrandTech President), Norm Needleman (Tower Labs Owner/President), Jay Madden (Gowrie Group Managing Director), Carter Gowrie (Founder & Managing Director) and Robin Andreoli (The Kate Director of Development & Community Relations)

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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