



Gowrie Group Recognized as a “Top Workplace of Connecticut”

September 26, 2011. Westbrook, CT. Gowrie Group, Connecticut’s premier independent insurance agency, is proud to announce that it has been recognized as a “Top Workplace of CT” by The Hartford Courant and FoxCT.

Ed Gumbrecht, Gowrie’s COO, said to staff when he announced the results, *“We are proud to have achieved this recognition which shows how strongly aligned we are as a team. The resounding feedback in this initiative was that as professionals we enjoy and respect each other and are motivated and empowered to do remarkable work for our clients.”*

Carter Gowrie, Gowrie’s President, likewise noted, *“External benchmarks are important to us, but this distinction is special because it reflects our own staff’s enthusiasm for our business.”*

Top Workplaces are about more than just pay scales and perks. They are about a better way of doing business. Extensive research has shown that employees want to be part of something meaningful, where they can contribute and give their best. Top Workplaces recognize that having an inclusive approach means they can be more innovative, operate more ethically and serve customers better.

The selection for the Top Workplaces program is based a comprehensive survey that all CT-based employees are asked to complete. The survey asks employees for their opinions on 6 areas of the workplace. Winning companies are selected based on an overall score, and then the winners are also ranked against each other within the 6 categories. Gowrie was selected as a winner in the Small Company category (less than 100 CT-based employees) and ranked as a high performer in both Direction and Career, as defined below:

1. **Direction:** Assessment of the company’s values, leaders and strategy
2. **Career:** Opportunity for training and progression
3. **Execution:** Assessment of the how the company communicates and gets work done
4. **Conditions:** Assessment of the working atmosphere and working environment
5. **Managers:** quality of the managers and their managerial skills
6. **Pay & Benefits:** Assessment of employee compensation for the work done

In each area, employees were asked to both rate the company and give qualitative feedback. Two representative quotes from our employees are:

- *“The company allows me to suggest creative ideas to make work flow easier. The company culture is positive, and I feel rewarded both mentally and monetarily.”*
- *“They care about their employees and work balance. Everyone works as hard as they can, but time off is considered time well-earned.”*

A total of 45 companies were selected as winners, including 20 small (defined as less than 100 CT-based employees), 15 medium (100-349 employees) and 10 large companies (350+ employees). Among the 45 companies, Gowrie Group was 1 of only 5 companies to be selected as a Featured Workplaces based on our online profile. The [Gowrie Group online profile](http://courant.topworkplaces.com/company_survey/gowrie-barden-bre_hartford/courant_11) can be viewed on the CT Top Workplace website (http://courant.topworkplaces.com/company_survey/gowrie-barden-bre_hartford/courant_11).

Gowrie Group provides insurance, benefits, and financial services to individuals and businesses throughout the US, and specializes in customized marine, business, home, auto, and boat insurance products and services. Gowrie Group is endorsed by US SAILING, the national governing body for the sport of sailing. Gowrie’s 100+ dedicated professionals are primarily located in the company’s main offices in Westbrook CT, Darien CT, and Newport RI. For more information about Gowrie Group visit www.gowrie.com or call 800.262.8911