



Gowrie Group Recognized for Community Outreach Activities that Benefit the Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 3, 2012. Westbrook, Connecticut

Gowrie Group is very proud to announce that it won a McDonald's "Bake-Break" Community Service Award.

Gowrie Group, Connecticut's largest and most prestigious independent insurance agency was chosen as the winner based on **exceptional community service and outreach to benefit the Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries.**

Crossroads Communications, which broadcasts local and regional news on radio stations WLIS and WMRD, partnered with McDonald's to sponsor the award. Gowrie was selected by a panel of judges which included Laura Francis, First Selectman of Durham; Anna Wachessa, President of Middlesex Community College; and Cynthia Clegg, Executive Director of the Middlesex Community Foundation. Old Saybrook McDonald's manager, Kara Santopietro, provided the Gowrie Group team with the "Bake-Break" breakfast on May 1st. The breakfast featured McDonalds' new scones, muffins, and sweet breads.

Gowrie's annual outreach to the Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries, which began in 2004, has two major components.

1) Fundraising Campaign: Annually Gowrie Group sponsors a matching fundraising challenge each November to benefit the SSKP, with Gowrie Group matching the first \$25,000 in donations. The first year of the Gowrie Challenge, we raised \$47,000 to benefit the SSKP. The 2011 challenge raised \$113,351. Over the last 8 years, Gowrie Group has raised almost **\$600,000 to benefit the Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries.** This translates to providing nearly 2 million meals to people along our shoreline.

2) Employee Outreach: Gowrie Group employees donate their time and services to the SSKP in many ways throughout the year. Gowrie employees assist at local food distribution sites and serve food at hot meal locations. **Every summer Gowrie employees host a BBQ luncheon for Soup Kitchen guests** at the Old Saybrook site. The 2012 lunch will be on June 6th. For the lunch, employees contribute financially, make baked goods, buy groceries, cook the BBQ meats, and serve the meal. In December of each year, Gowrie employees host a canned food drive and deliver the collections to the SSKP before the holidays.



Gowrie Team grilling for Soup Kitchen Lunch: S. Cleveland, J. Owsianik, D. Schmelzer.

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's 125+ 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.

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