



PHOTO BY GARTH MEADOW

Meadows Brothers, with Dustin and Ian Meadows.

Will play for food

Local musicians host concert to benefit Shoreline Soup Kitchen Friday

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By Lisa Reisman
lisareisman27@gmail.com

OLD SAYBROOK » Take a guess at how many families in well-to-do Shoreline towns like Madison and Old Lyme and Essex regularly go to bed without a good meal in their stomachs.

More than 11,000. Eleven-thousand families with kids. Hungry kids don't learn well, said Matthew Male, the drummer for the popular indie rock band Ravens in the Woods. And feeding people goes a long way into helping



families keep going.

That's the reason his group will be taking the stage at The Kate in Old Saybrook for the 10th annual benefit concert for the Shoreline Soup Kitchen & Pantries on Friday.

Brian Wolfe, whose Ebin-Rose Trio will be sharing its "flowing musical mosaic," in the words of Ken Basura in "The Essential Album Guide," had another explanation. "When we started the benefit concert 10 years ago, I was unaware of the magnitude of the problem in this area," he said.

"How could there be soup kitchens on the Shoreline?" he remembers asking Patty Dowling, director of the Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries, which provides food and fellowship to those in need in 11 Shoreline towns and depends on private donations for the majority of its funding.

Contrary to stereotypes, she told him, people who go to bed hungry do not all live in big cities. And it's not just residents living below the poverty line in the region, according to Dowling. It's not just the homeless or the long-term mentally ill.

The majority are working multiple jobs, but who still aren't paid a living wage, she said. Many are veterans or on fixed incomes. Then there are those just get-

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— Leonard Wyeth,
Wyeth Architects LLC



PHOTO BY GARTH MEADOW

Moving Target, with Leonard Wyeth, left, Leslie Strauss and Bill Grover.



PHOTO BY JIM ROLSTON

Ebin-Rose Trio, with Bobo, Rose Wolfe, and Brian Wolfe.

ting by and then something unexpected arises, like a car that breaks down, or a health issue that comes out of nowhere.

That's why, from the beginning, Leonard Wyeth of Wyeth Architects LLC signed on to underwrite the fixed costs of the show, including rental of The Kate, and sound and production expenses.

"The Soup Kitchen serves the community in a way that is real and necessary and important," Wyeth said. Whereas in most fundraisers only a fraction of the money raised goes to the intended

purpose, he said, every penny from every ticket and CD sold at the concert goes directly to SSK&P.

Along with Wyeth's band Moving Target, described as "an eclectic assembly of characters and instruments," there's also the Chester-rooted The Meadows Brothers, recent recipients of the 2014 Rising Artist Detection and Recognition Award at The New England Music Awards, whose gut-bucket, dirt-road, twangy spirit belie their status as one of this region's few teen-aged Americana acts.

The involvement of The Meadows Brothers, along with the other acts, "is a wonderful example of a group of people who asked themselves how they could bring their time and talents to feed their fellow citizens," said Dowling.

And that's not even counting the generosity of the Gowrie Group of Westbrook, which will match every dollar raised from the concert as part of their annual Gowrie Challenge, or The Kate itself, which quietly agreed to a reasonable rate for renting the space.

"Enjoying really good live music in a magnificent space while knowing you're doing your part to ensure your neighbors don't go hungry," said Male. "I can't think of a better way to spend a Friday evening in December."

The Shoreline Soup Kitchen Benefit celebrates its 10th year at the Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center at 8 p.m. tonight, 300 Main St., Old Saybrook. Tickets are \$20, available at katharinehepburntheater.org or 877-503-1286.

Lisa Reisman is a Branford free-lance writer and frequent contributor to the ShoreLine Times.