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Granite United Way Announce Community Investments ~ Delivers More than \$1.08 Million in Support to the Central Region

Central Region volunteers announce funding for local programs

(Laconia and Plymouth, New Hampshire) – Granite United Way’s annual campaign mobilizes more than 20,000 donors and corporate supporters to raise more than \$8.22 million across the state of New Hampshire. The campaign benefits more than 750 nonprofit agencies and programs providing services to more than 350,000 individuals. By mobilizing volunteers from each local region in its footprint to review and vet proposals and make funding decisions based upon strict criteria that ensures investments are held to the highest standards and are producing the greatest, most cost-efficient impact. In addition to the volunteer-led grant investment process and donor designation program, initiatives like Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), the 2-1-1NH information & referral line and FamilyWize, a prescription drug discount program deliver a combined total of nearly \$14 million in support to residents across New Hampshire.

Local volunteers on Granite United Way’s Community Impact Committee dedicated the last few months to evaluating program proposals and determining their investment decisions for the Central Region. **Together, with the volunteer Board of Directors and Community Impact Committees, they announced that the 2015 Campaign would deliver more than \$1.08 Million in support this year to the Central Region.**

This year marks the final year of a three year funding cycle in the Central Region. The Central Region has served as a model of collaboration with the Financial Stability Partnership (FSP), a collective of many local nonprofits – including the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central New Hampshire, Belknap Economic Development Council, Carey House/Salvation Army, Laconia Area Community Land Trust, Appalachian Mountain Teen Project, Health First Family Care Center, Lakes Region Child Care Services, Family Resource Center/Lakes Region Community Services and Mike Persson of Lawson Persson & Weldon-Francke - focused on addressing poverty in Belknap County. These organizations and individuals will be recognized for their efforts during the Central Region’s annual Campaign Celebration this year.

In the Central Region, the Whole Village Family Resource Center continues to be a primary resource in the region for programs focused on quality child care, developing strong parenting skills and achieving financial stability. This year the center celebrates its 20th Anniversary of serving the community. In addition Granite United Way’s work with Carroll County Coalition for Public Health is building strong relationships and convening key partners in addressing the critical issue of substance misuse in the region.

“Our volunteers are working alongside us to forging new partnerships and developing new solutions to old problems,” said Patrick Tufts, President and CEO of Granite United Way. “We are mobilizing our agency partners and leveraging our donor dollars in ways that even five years ago may not have seemed possible.”

“We know that it is impossible for any one organization to address all of the issues in our community. It’s critical that we work together with local nonprofits, community leaders and corporate partners to address difficult problems together in more effective ways,” said Tufts.

Partners like Linda L. Harvey, Executive Director of Laconia Area Community Land Trust, Inc. couldn't agree more with that statement.

"We are proud to collaborate with Granite United Way to improve conditions in our community. It's essential we work together with nonprofits, community leaders, and corporate entities to address some of our community's greatest needs," said Harvey. "Even addressing the most basic of needs - like housing, employment, and childcare - requires a collective approach because it affects so many aspects of creating a healthy, strong community."

Funded programs will receive notification this week.

For more information about Granite United Way, visit www.graniteuw.org.

Granite United Way

Granite United Way is an experienced and trusted organization dedicated to leveraging the resources of investors and volunteers to create lasting change by addressing the underlying causes of our community's most pressing needs.

United Way's purpose is to convene public, private, and governmental leaders and resources to tackle the largest, most pressing issues facing our community. These issues include, but are not limited to: Providing children with the tools they need to read at grade level, putting them on the path to becoming successful, contributing members of our community. Offering free assistance from trained tax professionals to ensure that low income individuals and families file their taxes properly and timely, and utilize qualified tax credits to begin to build their own capital, Administering a statewide, comprehensive 24 hour a day/ 365 days a year help hot-line called 2-1-1 that quickly delivers help to any resident in New Hampshire

Granite United Way works with over 1,000 companies, 25,000 investors and thousands of volunteers every year to make our communities a better place. Granite United Way is highly rated by both GuideStar and Charity Navigator, two of the nation's largest nonprofit rating sources.

Granite United Way serves the Central Region, Merrimack County, North Country, Northern Region, Southern Region (Manchester / Derry / Salem) and Upper Valley Regions of New Hampshire as well as Windsor County, Vermont. For more information, visit www.graniteuw.org.

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