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Granite United Way Announces Investments ~ Delivers Nearly \$14 Million in Support Across New Hampshire

Local volunteers from across six regions announce annual investment decisions

(Statewide 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 from Granite United Way’s six regions (Southern, Merrimack County, Upper Valley, Central Region, North Country and Northern Region, dedicated the last few months to evaluating program proposals and determining their investment recommendations for each community.

“Our volunteers are working alongside us to forging new partnerships and developing new solutions to old problems. We are mobilizing our agency partners and leveraging our donor dollars in ways that even five years ago may not have seemed possible,” said Patrick Tufts, President and CEO of Granite United Way. “We were extremely impressed with the quality of applicants this year and how organizations are embracing a collaborative approach to their work.”

This year marks the third year of implementing the Strategic Plan the Board of Directors adopted in 2013. Funding decisions in each of Granite United Way’s six regions and encourage collaborative efforts between agencies to create deeper, more lasting impact. In the Derry and Salem area, the South Central Public Health Network was convened by Granite United Way and includes Greater Derry Community Health Services, Center for Life Management, Community Alliance for Teen Safety, and Parkland Medical Center. Through this unique collaboration, these organizations, along with other network partners, share resources and talent in an effort to maximize the positive outcomes in the Derry and Salem areas.

“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 in new, effective ways,” said Tufts.

Partners from across all regions offered their support of the collaboration in the community to produce the most effective outcomes:

Southern Region (Greater Manchester / Salem / Derry)

“Manchester Community Resource Center shares Granite United Way’s mission of improving the quality of life

for individuals and families by providing access to high quality services that are effective and efficient. We accomplish this by developing strong partnerships with community service providers, local and State government, City and State Departments, and area businesses...we cannot do this alone!" said Renie Denton, Executive Director of the Manchester Community Resource Center.

"Motivated by the strong support of Granite United Way on many fronts, the newly named South Central Public Health Network is taking the first steps of collaboration and impact. The unique partnership relationship between human service agencies aligned within the network breaks new ground in the region and we are all extremely excited about the possibilities it offers our citizens and communities." Said Donna Tighe, Donna Tighe from Greater Derry Community Health Services, whose organization is part of the South Central Public Health Network.

North Country

"The Boys & Girls Club of the North Country is so thankful for the funding and support we receive from Granite United Way. Support like this allows us to continue to offer quality programming to the children of our community as well the ability to expand what we offer." Said Eric Frydman, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club of the North Country. "This year we were able to offer additional financial assistance to many local families that may not otherwise be able to afford our programs."

"We cherish the communities of the North Country and appreciate the chance to work together with partners across the region to sustain and strengthen those communities. Working together, we multiply our impact to support those in need." said Roberta Berner, Executive Director, Grafton County Senior Citizens Council, Inc "Because I see the direct impact of collective giving, I am pleased to be a United Way contributor personally."

Northern Region

"In 2015 the Feeding Hope Food Pantry dispersed food to over 5,000 individuals and from the Community Cafe fed a weekly free meal to over 2,000 people. Without the funding and support of Granite United Way neither the Pantry or Cafe would have been able to accomplish their goals of caring for those in our communities that are food insecure. It is a partnership for success!" Vickie Plourde, Executive Director of the Feeding Hope Food Pantry.

"It's critical that organizations work together to improve conditions in our community. In the Northern region especially this effort is essential to providing access to important services to our neighbors and we are proud to work alongside Granite United Way in this effort," said Charlie Cotton, Area Director, Northern Human Services. "We all know that no one organization can solve all of the issues our community faces. There have been many instances where we've partnered with a number of nonprofits to address a specific concern. It's important that we work together and support each other in this work. That is where United Way has been helpful in helping to convene groups together and make positive change in our community."

Merrimack County

"Our funding from Granite United Way helps us advocate for the needs of the most vulnerable New Hampshire residents in court, at the State House and in front of the many government agencies that make decisions affecting their lives," said Lynne M. Parker, Esq., Executive Director of New Hampshire Legal Assistance "We're grateful the Granite United Way supports our mission to protect low-income residents' rights, their homes, their families and their livelihoods."

"The Pittsfield Youth Workshop is proud to partner with Granite United Way to help improve the lives of youth and families in our community. Support from Granite United Way has allowed PYW to provide programs and activities that allow youth to explore their passions, connect with the community, focus on their future, and achieve academic success," said Zach Powers, Executive Director, Pittsfield Youth Workshop "We are grateful to be able to continue to offer low, to no-cost, afterschool programming because of this collaborative relationship."

Upper Valley

“The partnership Granite United Way creates with the non-profits in the Upper Valley is truly a key to our successes. The financial support is critical; but beyond that, GUW facilitates collaboration among the agencies that enables us to share ideas and needs, and enhances our ability to support and complement one another. All of our jobs would be so much more difficult without our United Way’s support!” Jeannette Birge, Director of the Upper Valley Office of Child & Family Services of New Hampshire.

Central Region

“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 Linda L. Harvey, Executive Director of Laconia Area Community Land Trust, Inc. “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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