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Granite United Way Announces Investments ~ Delivers More than \$2.57 Million in Support for the Greater Manchester / Salem / Derry Area

The Greater Manchester / Salem / Derry area focuses on critical needs in our community

(Manchester / Salem / Derry, 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 the region on Granite United Way’s Community Review Team dedicated the last few months to evaluating program proposals and determining their investment recommendations for the Manchester / Salem / Derry area. **Together, with the volunteer Board of Directors and Community Impact Committees, they announced that the 2015 campaign will deliver more than \$2.57 million in support to this community during 2016.**

This year the volunteer teams focused their Request for Proposal in three main areas: substance misuse and mental health, literacy and household financial stability. This also marks the second year of a three year funding schedule for the Neighborhood Health Improvement Strategy in Manchester, an initiative that truly embodies the spirit of collaboration by engaging more than 20 agencies and funding partners.

“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 like Renie Denton, Executive Director of the Manchester Community Resource Center, and Donna Tighe from Greater Derry Community Health Services, couldn't agree more with the need for collaboration across the community.

"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 Denton.

"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 Tighe, whose organization is part of the South Central Public Health Network.

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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