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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Granite United Way Announces Community Investments ~ Delivers More than \$74,000 in Support to the North Country

North Country volunteers announce funding decisions for 2017

(Littleton, New Hampshire) – Granite United Way's annual campaign mobilizes more than 20,000 donors and corporate supporters to raise more than \$8.7 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. Volunteers are mobilized 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 North Country on Granite United Way's Community Impact Committee dedicated the last few months to evaluating program proposals and determining their funding decisions for the North Country. **Together, the volunteer Board of Directors and the North Country Community Impact Committee, announced that more than \$74,000 in support will be delivered to this community during 2017.**

This year the volunteer teams focused their Request for Proposal in United Way's three primary areas of impact: Education, Income and Health.

"Our local volunteers in the North Country are helping us to reach more people and provide more support than ever before," said Patrick Tufts, President and CEO of Granite United Way. "We have been extremely impressed with the quality of applicants this year and continue to focus on investing United Way donor funds in the most efficient and effective manner."

Through an innovative "Get on the Bus" initiative, **two new companies in the North Country** either hosted a United Way workplace campaign or gave a corporate gift – bringing thousands of dollars into the North Country.

Through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program, **more than \$200,000 in federal refunds, including the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**, were delivered to low to moderate income families in the North Country.

Partners like Peter Christnacht, Executive Director at Copper Cannon Camp are proud to support and collaborate with Granite United Way in the North Country.

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"We are honored to work alongside Granite United Way in their efforts to improve lives in the North Country. Nonprofits understand the importance of collaborating to address the needs of each of our communities," said Peter Christnacht, Executive Director of Copper Cannon Camp. "Together we are ensuring that our neighbors in the North Country have access to the important resources they rely on."

During the recent Celebration in the North Country on Wednesday, May 24th at Schilling Beer Company, Granite United Way recognized several key supporters who helped make this year a success. Those recognized included: **Granite Award** (companies that raise more than \$100,000 during their campaign) **UPS**; the **GIVE Award presented to the Tender Corporation**; the **ADVOCATE Award presented to Peter Christnacht of Copper Cannon Camp**; the **VOLUNTEER Award presented to Tricia Fryman** and the **Employee Campaign Coordinator presented to Joanne Richardson of the Mt. Washington Cog Railway**.

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 rated a Platinum Participant by GuideStar and a Three Star 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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