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Granite United Way Announce Community Investments ~ Delivers More than \$84,000 in Support in the Northern Region

Northern Region volunteers announce funding decisions for 2017

(Berlin, 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 Northern Region on Granite United Way’s Community Impact Committee dedicated the last few months to evaluating program proposals and determining their investment decisions for the Northern Region. **Together, the volunteer Board of Directors and the Northern Region Community Impact Committee announced that more than \$84,000 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.

“The collaborative spirit of our volunteers in the Northern Region continues to make a positive impact on this community,” said Patrick Tufts, President and CEO of Granite United Way. “They have dedicated countless hours to generating funds and determining the best investments for the community.”

“We recognize that no one organization in the Northern Region can address the complex issues of the community, said Tufts. “But we know that be working together we can help identify those needs and invest United Way donor dollars in the most effective and efficient way possible.”

Partners like Charlie Cotton, Area Director for Northern Human Services, couldn’t agree more with the need for collaboration. Their funded programs focus on providing access to nutritional food and a variety of much needed human services in the Northern Region, respectively.

“When I think of Granite United Way, I think of how it is community-wide movement that pulls us together in such a way that we are bigger than the sum of our parts. “This is the United Way” said Charlie Cotton, from Northern Human Services. “In this community it is more important than ever that we work together to address the problems facing our friends and neighbors.”

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In the Northern Region over the past year Granite United Way continued to provide **additional literacy programming** in both the Berlin Middle School and High School, **with every student in the middle school currently using the program**. This specialized program called Reading Plus helps students improve their silent reading skills using an innovative program that engages the student. Berlin Superintendent of Schools, Corinne Cascadden, has been extremely supportive of this program and has been impressed with the results, with students making significant gains on their reading.

Granite United Way has a new partnership with Coos Coalition for Young Children & Families in an effort to increase literacy. They are **working with physicians to ensure that all children aged 0-6 bring home a book as part of their pediatric check ups**.

During their recent Celebration event on May 4, 2017 at the Dairy Bar, Granite United Way recognized the following individuals and companies for their efforts in the Northern Region: **Granite Awards** (companies that raised over \$100,000 during their annual campaign) **Eversource Energy and UPS**; the **GIVE Award presented to Dr. Thomas Temme**; the **ADVOCATE Award was presented to Steve Finnigan Allen**; and the **VOLUNTEER Award was presented to Judith Treamer**.

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 is committed to improving the lives of individuals and families by supporting programs in the areas of education, income and health. 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 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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