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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Granite United Way Announces Investments ~ Delivers More than \$3.13 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 \$8.7 million across the state of New Hampshire and Windsor County, Vermont.

This year's campaign will benefit more than 750 nonprofit agencies and programs providing services to more than 400,000 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 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, the volunteer Board of Directors and Southern Region Community Impact Committee, announced that the 2016 campaign will deliver more than \$3.13 Million in support to this community during 2017.**

This year the volunteer teams focused their Request for Proposal in three main areas: literacy, household financial stability, and substance misuse and mental health. This also marks the final year of a three year funding schedule for the Neighborhood Health Improvement Strategy (NHIS) in Manchester, an initiative that truly embodies the spirit of collaboration by engaging more than 20 agencies and funding partners. The NHIS was recognized as part of a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Prize in 2016.

"Each year I am impressed with the dedication shown by our local volunteers who lead the grant funding decisions. This year they were presented with a tremendous number of quality applicants, and they contributed hundreds of hours to the decision process," said Patrick Tufts, President and CEO of Granite United Way. "As the needs of the community continue to evolve, our volunteers are responding to those needs."

"We recognize that no one organization can address all of the needs in our community, and that together we are able to provide more support than ever before," said Tufts. "As we continue to collaborate, we are seeing more and more groups working in tandem to produce positive results."

**Granite United Way's work with the South Central Public Health Network brought over \$260,000 to organizations serving the Salem and Derry 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.

Granite United Way's partnership in the **Safe Station initiative in Manchester has saved more than 1,800 lives** since the program launched in May 2016. The program also helped earn the City of Manchester a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Prize this year.

**Granite United Way's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) delivered more than \$1 Million in federal tax refunds, including the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), to low to moderate income families in the region.**

Partners like Larry Gammon, President and CEO of Easterseals New Hampshire, are proud to work with Granite United Way.

"Nonprofits across New Hampshire are facing different challenges today than they were even 10 years ago. By building strong collaborations with Granite United Way, we're able to address our community's most critical issues," said Larry Gammon, President and CEO of Easterseals New Hampshire. "We are proud of the way we've been able to evolve together to develop innovative solutions to our community's complex issues."

Long time supporters like Sarah Jacobs, Director of Strategic Initiatives at the University of New Hampshire Manchester also applaud Granite United Way for its collaborative efforts.

"As a donor and volunteer I am confident in the investments our local volunteer teams have made in the Southern Region," said Sarah Jacobs, Director of Strategic Initiatives at the University of New Hampshire Manchester, and member of the Community Impact Committee. "It's important that we continue to work together in ways that will strengthen our community and address the most critical needs effectively. I am proud to support this process in our community."

Funded programs will receive notification this week.

For more information about Granite United Way, visit [www.graniteuw.org](http://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](http://www.graniteuw.org).*

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