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Granite United Way Announce Community Investments ~ Delivers Almost \$1.2 Million in Support to the Central Region

Central Region volunteers announce funding for local programs

(Laconia, Plymouth and Ossipee, New Hampshire) – Granite United Way’s annual campaign mobilizes more than 20,000 donors and corporate supporters to raise more than \$8.8 million across the state of New Hampshire and Windsor County, Vermont.

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 on Granite United Way’s Community Impact Committee dedicated the last few months to evaluating program proposals and determining their investment decisions for the Central Region. **Together, with the volunteer Board of Directors and the Central Region Community Impact Committee, announced that the 2017 Campaign would deliver almost \$1.2 Million in support during 2018 to the Central Region.**

Volunteers in the Central Region made investments in programs that support families and youth throughout the community.

“We continue to be impressed with the quality programs that are offered in the Central Region, and we are grateful for the time that local volunteers dedicate to the funding process,” said Patrick Tufts, President and CEO of Granite United Way. “Over 435 volunteer hours were devoted to these decisions. They continue to fund programs and services that enable our community to learn, earn and be healthy.”

“The Family Resource Center of Central NH is so thankful for the continued support from Granite United Way. The mission of the FRC-CNH is to strengthen families and communities by enhancing social connections, utilizing family support principles and protective factors. The funding from Granite United Way is critical to our ability to provide these supports to the children and families of the central region.” Erin Pettengill, Director of the Family Resource Center of Central NH.

In addition to the grants made to local organizations, Granite United Way’s Whole Village Family Resource Center serves as major resource in the region for programs focused on quality child care, developing strong parenting skills and achieving financial stability. Students in the Accounting Department at Plymouth State University partnered with the nonprofit and offered free tax preparation to struggling families and individuals in the region. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program helped to return over \$430,000 in federal tax refunds to Central Region residents, including over \$130,000 in the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

Carroll County Coalition for Public Health [C3PH] is one of 3 regional public health networks that Granite United Way has contracted with the state of NH's regional public health network system. They have been focused on tackling the state-wide opioid crisis by collecting more than 765 pounds of drugs collected at 2 Drug Take Back Days and 18 Narcan Trainings that were held throughout the Central Region community.

“As a Loyal Contributor and Granite United Way Board Member, it is inspiring to see our community come together to tackle large scale issues,” said Larry Major, Government Affairs Manager at Pike Industries. “No one organization can solve the issues we’re facing, and we know that by working alongside each other we will be able to improve lives in our 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 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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