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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Granite United Way Announce Community Investments ~ Delivers More than \$1.8 Million in Support to the Merrimack County**

*Merrimack County volunteers announce funding for local programs*

(Concord, 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 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 Merrimack County. **Together the volunteer Board of Directors and the Merrimack County Community Impact Committee announced that the 2017 Campaign would deliver more than \$1.8 Million in support during 2018 to Merrimack County.**

“We continue to see true community collaboration in Merrimack County each year.” said Patrick Tufts, President and CEO of Granite United Way. “Merrimack County volunteers focused funding on the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) which outlines many of the community needs. By aligning their decisions with this plan have made strategic, thoughtful decisions to help neighbors learn, earn and be healthy.”

"After careful consideration and thorough deliberation, the Community Review Committee is pleased to support Granite United Way’s funding of local organizations within Merrimack County for the upcoming funding cycle. We look forward to the positive results of these supported organizations and thank them for continuing to offer the wonderful care, services, and programs that have made them stand out during the application process." Jo Brooks, Chair of the Community Review Team in Merrimack County.

Organizations like the Boys and Girls Club of Central New Hampshire credit their collaboration with Granite United Way with their ability to grow.

“It is no secret that early childhood education that meets the needs of children ages 2 to 5 is in high demand in Central NH. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Central NH is serious about answering the call for affordable quality childcare that meets the needs of this important age group,” said Chris Emond, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central NH. “Granite United Way has given us the start-up funding necessary to make this a reality. We are opening new sites in Concord and Allenstown in the Fall of 2018.”

Grants to organizations in the region leverage other investments in the Capital Area Public Health Network (CAPHN) to address important issues like substance misuse prevention, treatment and recovery. This year, Granite United Way became an Early Adopter of the Governor’s Recovery Friendly Workplace to ensure that

businesses had the tools to support their employees who were in recovery. The team also facilitated 16 Community Narcan education events which dispensed over 600 no-cost Narcan kits to community members, and more than 1,000 students across 21 schools received no-cost influenza vaccinations.

Additionally, Granite United Way's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program helped to return nearly \$1.2 Million in federal tax refunds to Merrimack County residents, including over \$200,000 in the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

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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