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Granite United Way Volunteers Announce Community Investments ~ Delivers Nearly \$66,000 in Support to the Northern Region

Northern Region volunteers announce funding for local programs

(Berlin, 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 Northern Region. **Together the volunteer Board of Directors and the Northern Region Community Impact Committee announced that the 2017 Campaign would deliver nearly \$66,000 in support during 2018 to the Northern Region**

Northern Region volunteers focused funding decisions on providing basic needs in the Northern Region, such as supporting food pantries, after school programs and mental health services. Granite United Way’s partnership with the Family Resource Center at Gorham to support the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program returned over \$136,000 in federal tax refunds to Northern Region residents, including over \$27,000 in the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

“Our local volunteers in the Northern Region dedicated nearly 300 hours to the decision process this year,” said Patrick Tufts, President and CEO of Granite United Way. “We are proud of the way United Way has worked with supporters and volunteers to ensure that our Northern neighbors have access to important programs that help them learn, earn and be healthy.”

“Granite United Way plays an important role in the Northern Region, working with our local nonprofits and volunteers to ensure that needs are being met,” said Lori Langlois, Executive Director of North Country Education Services and a Granite United Way Board Member. “We know that working together we can address many of the issues that affect our friends and neighbors.”

Funded programs will receive notification this week.

For more information about Granite United Way, visit www.graniteuw.org.

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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