

For more information, please contact:
Karrie Eaton, Vice President of Marketing & Communications
603.625.6939, ext. 119 or 603.560.5453 (c)
karrie.eaton@graniteuw.org

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Granite United Way Announce Community Investments ~ Delivers Nearly \$3.1 Million in Support to the Greater Manchester / Salem / Derry region

Southern Region volunteers announce funding for local programs

(Manchester, 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 Southern Region. **Together the volunteer Board of Directors and the Southern Region Community Impact Committee announced that the 2017 Campaign would deliver nearly \$3.1 Million in support during 2018 to the Greater Manchester / Salem / Derry area.**

Southern Region volunteers focused on strengthening the community fabric across the 18 towns it serves. Investments in programs that support mental health, substance misuse prevention, basic needs and housing will help neighbors learn, earn and be healthy. Innovative programs like the Boys & Girls Club’s teen food pantry are some of the examples of addressing needs in new ways. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program helped to return over \$1 Million in federal tax refunds to Southern Region residents, including over \$300,000 in the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

“The collaboration we’ve seen in the Southern Region is unprecedented. By working together, we’re able to address critical needs in our community with a strategic approach,” said Patrick Tufts, President and CEO of Granite United Way.

“Granite United Way continues to hit annual fundraising goals through corporate and individual contributions which allow us to make substantial investments in our communities. Our donors know thousands of volunteer hours go into ensuring the best programs are supported and engaged to work collaboratively to address challenges. Raising \$8.8 Million dollars locally and investing locally makes a substantial and measurable impact,” said Sean Owen, President of wedu and Talient Action Group, an Alexis de Tocqueville Society Member and Chair of Granite United Way’s Board of Directors.

“The Boys & Girls Club of Manchester continues to evolve our programming to meet the needs of our families. Some examples of this include our weekend food pantry managed by our teens, and our dental clinics that give working families access to quality dental care,” said Diane Fitzpatrick, CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of

Manchester. "It takes all of us to strengthen our community, and we are proud to partner with Granite United Way in this effort."

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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