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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Granite United Way Announce Community Investments ~ Delivers Impact Across 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 \$9 million across the state of New Hampshire and Windsor County, Vermont. These investments will deliver nearly \$12 Million in total community impact this year, while leveraging another \$2 Million in support through initiatives across New Hampshire and Windsor County, Vermont.

The campaign benefits more than 750 nonprofit agencies and programs providing services to nearly 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.

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 2018 Campaign would deliver nearly \$2.3 Million in support during 2019 to the Central Region.**

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

“These investments leverage the incredible impact made by our local and statewide initiatives, including 2-1-1 NH, public health networks and volunteer income tax assistance to create the opportunity for our communities to learn, earn and be healthy,” said Patrick Tufts, President and CEO of Granite United Way.

“On behalf of the entire Central Region Community Impact Committee, I would like to thank all of our agencies who completed the grant submission process. We respect and appreciate the many hours each agency spent on their preparation for the process. Additionally, we all learned a great deal from the personal presentations made. We focused on our three priority funding areas: Health, education and financial stability. Our CIC members volunteered many hours for this review process.” Said Cass Walker, Chief Human Resources Officer at LRGHealthcare and Granite United Way Board Member.

**Organizations across the region partner with Granite United Way to offer critical services and programs**

“Untreated mental illness often results in more intensive and costly care, burdening our communities with emergency hospitalizations and incarcerations,” said Maggie Pritchard, CEO, Lakes Region Mental Health Center. “Funding from Granite United Way demonstrates our shared value and understanding that we all benefit from early treatment and it can and should be accessible for those who are uninsured or under-insured and who don’t have the financial resources to pay for their care. We are very grateful for their continued support.”

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 childcare, developing strong parenting skills and achieving financial stability. Students in the Accounting Department at Plymouth State University have made their partnership part of their curriculum where students provide free tax preparation to struggling families and individuals in the region.

Over 660 households utilized free tax preparation services throughout the region, bringing nearly \$900,000 in federal tax refunds to the community through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. In the Central Region more than 5,600 calls were made to 2-1-1 NH which connected them to social services, including needs related to homelessness, legal supports, and utility assistance.

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. This year they provided over 700 influenza vaccines across the community, and collected over 600 pounds of prescription medication during take back days.

"The Central Region is fortunate to have so many individuals committed to creating a stronger, healthier community," said Scoop Welch, Vice President of Regional Operations at Granite United Way. "There is a genuine drive to bring positive impact to our neighbors across the 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. Granite United Way works with over 1,000 companies, 25,000 investors and thousands of volunteers every year to ensure access to program and services that help individuals and families learn, earn and be healthy. Granite United Way is highly rated by the nation's most recognized experts on nonprofits, GuideStar and Charity Navigator.*

*Granite United Way serves the Southern (Manchester/Derry/Salem), Merrimack County, North Country, Central NH, Northern and Upper Valley Regions of NH and VT as well as Windsor County, VT. For more information, visit [www.graniteuw.org](http://www.graniteuw.org).*

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