

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 Across 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 \$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 Merrimack County. **Together the volunteer Board of Directors and the Merrimack County Community Impact Committee announced that the 2018 Campaign would deliver nearly \$2.9 Million in support during 2019 to Merrimack County.**

“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.

Additionally, over 1,300 households in Merrimack County utilized free tax preparation services through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, bringing over \$1.4 million in federal tax refunds to the community. The team at 2-1-1 NH answered Nearly 7,200 calls from Merrimack County, connecting individuals to critical referrals to social services, including needs related to homelessness, legal supports, and utility assistance. Grants to organizations in the Merrimack County region leverage other investments in the Capital Area Public Health Network (CAPHN) to address important issues like substance misuse prevention, treatment and recovery. This team administered nearly 1,000 influenza vaccines within the community and led trainings and Narcan kit distributions.

Local volunteers in Merrimack County lead the investment process, supporting each of the four priority funding areas: misuse of alcohol and drugs, access to comprehensive behavioral health services, educational achievement, and economic wellbeing.

“Getting involved with Granite United Way as a member of the Community Impact Committee and Community Review Team has been an opportunity to meet and work with volunteers, United Way staff, while learning more about the wonderful organizations that support our community. It was heartening to see the intention and time that goes in to deciding how best to invest in the local community. Supporters can feel confident that their donation is invested where it can make the biggest difference to the community. The focus and attention the United Way is able to center on each community has a powerful local impact, and through volunteering I have seen first-hand the impact that United Way has on the communities in which I live and work!” Kelley L. Stonebraker, CIC member and Grant Review Team, Attorney at Orr & Reno.

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

“The Friends Program is grateful for a true community partner in the Granite United Way. The Friends Program provides support to youth, families and seniors, through programs like our emergency shelter for families and our Foster Grandparent senior volunteers mentoring at-risk children in classrooms. Granite United Way is at the table with local community leaders and nonprofits, addressing local needs and helping us to find solutions that work for our neighbors in Merrimack County.” Nancy M. Paul, Executive Director at The Friends Program.

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. 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.

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