

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Granite United Way Announce Community Investments ~ Delivering Impact Across the Upper Valley

Upper Valley volunteers announce funding for local programs

(Lebanon, 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.

Upper Valley volunteers focused funding decisions on stabilizing the low income wage earner, helping their neighbors across the region maintain stable employment, address home repairs, and access important needs like dental services, housing and behavioral health care. Granite United Way's annual campaign benefits more than 750 nonprofit agencies and programs providing services to more than 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.

Additionally, over 350 households in the Upper Valley utilized free tax preparation services through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, bringing nearly \$400,000 in federal tax refunds to the community. The team at 2-1-1 NH and 2-1-1 VT answered nearly 3,400 calls from the Upper Valley, connecting individuals to critical referrals to social services, including needs related to homelessness, legal supports, and utility assistance. Investments in Work United have engaged 11 corporate champions and had over 1,900 visits with workers in the Upper Valley.

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 Upper Valley. **Together, with the volunteer Board of Directors and the Upper Valley Community Impact Committee, announced that the 2018 Campaign would deliver nearly \$1.2 Million in support during 2019 to the Upper Valley.**

"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.

Local volunteers lead the investment process, supporting 11 new partners this year.

"As a volunteer both in the Community Impact process and as a Board Member, I am impressed each year with the dedication that our local volunteers show when allocating Granite United Way donor funds," said Beth Rattigan, attorney and director at Downs Rachlin Martin, PLLC, and Granite United Way Board Member.

"United Way is an important part of our community, not only as a fundraising organization, but as a provider of services to help improve community conditions across New Hampshire and in the Upper Valley region of Vermont. I am proud to support this effort."

"As a new member of the Community Impact Committee (CIC), it floored me to see the amount of incredible work that's being done by so many different groups throughout the region. One of the highlights of the process

is when we get to meet the clients of these programs, the direct beneficiaries. It's very powerful to hear how these programs change and improve so many lives." Said Michael Chamness, CIC member.

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

"Funding from Granite United Way has helped The Family Place strengthen and sustain programs over many years. For the past three years, Granite United Way grants have provided critical support to our Families Learning Together program. Through this program, we partner with young parents to reach education and employment goals and help their children learn and thrive," said Nancy Bloomfield, Executive Director. "We deeply appreciate this support and admire Granite United Way's commitment to a community volunteer-driven decision-making process for their grant awards. This year, a graduate of our program participated in our meeting with the review team. It was a great opportunity for us to present the heart of (and impact of) our work to people coming from different fields."

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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