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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **RAPPAHANNOCK UNITED WAY DEPENDS ON LOCAL VOLUNTEERS**

April 24, 2017 – Fredericksburg, VA – For Mountain View High School student Brian Kersellius, volunteering at Rappahannock United Way has given him new insight into his community.

“It’s opened my mind,” said Kersellius who volunteered as a Rappahannock United Way tax greeter this year at Porter Library in Stafford. “I had no idea this program existed. I was very surprised. I realized there are so many people out there struggling financially and it’s great to have a program like this that can at least help them a little bit.”

Rappahannock United Way depends on volunteers like Kersellius. Last year alone, more than 1,400 individuals volunteered over 9,000 hours through Rappahannock United Way. This provided a dollar value of community service worth over \$200,000 to improve people’s lives.

Volunteer experiences included Education-related activities such as reading to school children, income-related activities such as preparing tax returns and providing financial coaching, and health-related activities such as creating meal kits for local families.

“We truly appreciate all of our Rappahannock United Way volunteers,” said Sarah Walsh, Vice President of Community Impact at Rappahannock United Way. “They pour so much time and passion into serving our community and we are honored to work with them. We could not impact our community to the extent that we do without their support.”

National Volunteer Week, April 23-29, 2017, is about taking action and encouraging individuals to make a difference. At Rappahannock United Way, volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcome. Whether you have an hour, a day, or even more time to give, Rappahannock United Way can help you find an opportunity to serve. Full training is provided as needed.

Want more information about volunteering? Rappahannock United Way manages an online volunteer center for our community. Go to [www.RappahannockUnitedWay.org](http://www.RappahannockUnitedWay.org) and click the “volunteer” tab to learn more. Local nonprofits can post their volunteer opportunities. Local citizens can search for volunteer opportunities at Rappahannock United Way as well other opportunities in the Greater Fredericksburg region and sign up online.

**About Rappahannock United Way**

Founded in 1939, Rappahannock United Way is a local nonprofit organization serving Fredericksburg, Caroline, King George, Spotsylvania and Stafford. Our mission is to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of our community. Our goal is to have more households emerge from poverty and achieve greater financial stability. Together, we can create opportunities for a better tomorrow. That’s what it means to LIVE UNITED.

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