Dear Friends of MUW,

Over the last few days, the intense heat and humidity have reminded me how lucky I am to have shelter. Without it, the days would be unbearable and, more concerning, unsafe. For many of our neighbors, however, shelter is not a “given” and many struggle to find and keep safe and affordable housing.

One of our collaboratives, the Cheshire County Emergency Housing Collaborative (CCEHC)—comprised of Southwestern Community Services, Hundred Nights Shelter, and Monadnock Center for Violence Prevention—helps people like this every day. They use evidence-based practices like low barrier shelter, trauma informed care, and housing first to assist those seeking shelter and to help vulnerable individuals and families maintain housing.

One such family was Michelle and her three children: Nadia, age 16, Joel, age 14, and Khalid, age 7.

Prior to arriving in Keene, Michelle and her kids had couch surfed with friends, stayed with her mother in a subsidized apartment for a very limited time and, ultimately, ended up living in their car.

Hundred Nights took them in and helped Michelle get the children enrolled in local schools. They then worked with her to get each family member’s birth certificate, identification, Social Security card, and documentation of any benefits in one folder. Applications for security deposit funding, housing, and other assistance with local community agencies were filled in. While staying at Hundred Nights, Michelle was proactive by looking for affordable housing, making many phone calls, faxes, and emails on her own.

After many months, Michelle was finally able to locate a subsidized two-bedroom housing unit in North Conway.
Southwestern Community Services stepped in to provide Michelle assistance with a security deposit and first month’s rent. Hundred Nights had been gathering furniture and other items for their apartment from local community members and, at last, Michelle and the kids were able to move into their new apartment! Hundred Nights rented a U-Haul and loaded all the donated household items and family belongings at the shelter, driving to North Conway to help them set up.

There is help out there for those who need it! And your support makes it all possible. A heartfelt thanks to CCEHC for making Michelle and her family’s road to housing stability a reality.

Sincerely,

Liz LaRose, President

P.S. You’re invited to join us in a flash mob to celebrate the Stronger Together Campaign! Meet us in the rotary at Marlborough and Main Streets in Keene at 4:30 on Thursday, September 9. At 5:00 we’ll march up Main Street to Central Square. Show Keene you care about your neighbors in need!

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Thank you to our generous sponsors:

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Not yet a donor?

*Help us reach our goal of $1,462,000*

There are some easy options for you:

- Text MUW to 41444
- Donate online
- Transfer Stocks and Securities
- Donor Advised Fund

Mail a check to:

23 Center Street,
Keene, NH 03431
PLEASE NOTE:
With the importance of social distancing, we are limiting the number of hours that our staff come into the office to process gifts received via US Mail. We are asking donors to use our safe, secure donation portal whenever possible. However, we gratefully accept checks from anyone who prefers to donate in that manner and we will ensure that they are processed in a timely manner.

MUW is proud of our outstanding charity ratings!