

# Community Responses to Housing Insecurity



Monadnock United Way

Without enough places to live, more people find themselves homeless or housing insecure, meaning they are couch surfing, moving frequently, living in poor conditions, or spending the bulk of income on housing.

# Unlikely Partnerships to SOLVE OUR HOUSING CRISIS

Our region's housing issue is complex with rippling effects for all. A telling statistic is Cheshire County's 2022 rental housing availability rate of 0.6%. For comparison, 5% is considered healthy.<sup>1</sup> Without enough affordable, quality places to live, more people find themselves homeless or housing insecure.

The Monadnock Resource Alliance (MRA) aims to help solve this problem. The Alliance recognizes that there is no one solution or entity that will fix the housing crisis. Our community must work hand in hand to understand the issue and take coordinated action until this problem is solved.

In 2022, MRA researched successful housing collaborations. The members identified one that brought unlikely groups together, broke down barriers, and established trust. Groups included developers, utilities, environmentalists, municipalities, faith-based organizations, businesses, nonprofits, and others.

# Finding a Way Home

In early 2021, a family of two adults and two children with developmental disabilities lost their home and had minimal income. They sought refuge in a local emergency shelter that is part of the Cheshire County Emergency Housing Collaborative (CCEHC), where their names were added to NH's prioritization list and resources were available to find stable housing.

With limited housing stock, the family spent an entire year in the shelter. They finally obtained a two-bedroom apartment and utilized a State program to cover essential expenses. The father secured full-time employment and the children continued their education without disruption.

With these combined efforts, the family seamlessly integrated into their new community, serving as a testament to the family's resiliency and CCEHC's impact.

While diverse, everyone had this in common: The drive to fix the housing crisis in their communities together.

That same drive exists in our region and MRA members will convene our community in 2023 to identify collaborations, opportunities, and actions to help ensure that everyone has a safe, affordable home.

<sup>1</sup> New Hampshire Housing: New Hampshire 2022 Residential Rental Cost Survey Report at [nhhousing.org](http://nhhousing.org).

*MRA is a coalition founded by MUW and the NH Community Loan Fund focused on solving key problems affecting our region.*

*Established in 2020 with funding from MUW, CCEHC members include Southwestern Community Services, Hundred Nights, Inc, and Monadnock Center for Violence Prevention. CCEHC members work closely together to assist homeless and housing-insecure individuals and families in obtaining stable housing using Low Barrier, Trauma Informed Care, and Housing First approaches.*

Scan here to learn  
more about MRA.



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