

## A Collaborative Approach to Housing Stability

### Dear MUW Supporters,

Warmer days, blooming trees, and much-needed rain are welcome signs of spring in the Monadnock Region. For many, the season means cleaning up yards and tending to gardens—planting flowers or growing food to enjoy in the months ahead. Yet, these familiar routines are not within reach for everyone.

Across our region, homeownership has become increasingly difficult to attain, particularly for first-time buyers, folks wanting to downsize, and those with steady but modest incomes. Prices have risen steadily in recent years and inventory remains limited. While this is frustrating for potential homeowners, housing affordability also impacts workforce stability, economic growth, and overall community well-being.

### A Collaborative Approach to Housing Stability

The [Monadnock Housing Collaborative \(MHC\)](#) is a partnership between MUW, [Southwest Region Planning Commission](#), the [Monadnock Interfaith Project](#), and [New Hampshire Housing](#). MHC is committed to fostering strategic partnerships, aligning policy advocacy, and advancing housing solutions to address the region's growing housing crisis.

Rebecca Levy joined MUW in January as the MHC Program Manager, a new position partially funded by an Incubator Grant from New Hampshire Housing. Her job is to move the needle toward our vision of creating housing opportunities (both homeownership and rental opportunities) for everyone in the Monadnock Region. Please click [here](#) to read a comprehensive article about MHC published last month in the Keene Sentinel.

MHC knows solutions to the housing crisis are not 'one-size-fits-all'. Communities must thoughtfully balance preserving local character with encouraging economic stability and long-term well-being. Potential solutions for increasing housing development while not impacting a



### CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Monadnock United Way is seeking volunteers for the **Resource Development/Marketing Committee**

If you have experience engaging networks, or creating social media campaigns for non-profit organizations, please let us know. You may either sit on the committee or engage in project-based work, depending on your availability.

Please contact Sophie Carney-Brenner at [sophie@muw.org](mailto:sophie@muw.org) for more information.

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community's overall environment may include tactics like:

- Modernizing local zoning to allow a wider range of housing types, including Accessory Dwelling Units and cluster housing
- Offering financial incentives such as tax relief for developers of affordable housing
- Increasing infrastructure capacity, including water and sewer
- Encouraging redevelopment of underutilized commercial buildings, schools, mills, parking lots, etc.

A great example of a proactive, housing-friendly policy is Keene's new zoning overlay district, passed in 2024, which allows clustered small-home developments called 'cottage courts' in residential districts where there is existing access to city water and sewer.

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***“Many complex reasons led to the current housing shortage, and there is no quick fix. A lack of construction resources, incentives, and infrastructure, combined with restrictive zoning ordinances, all factor into the challenges we currently face.”***  
***Rebecca Levy, MHC Program Manager.***

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**[Check out our newsletter archive.](#)**

Rebecca Levy, Monadnock Housing Collaborative Program  
Manager

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### It's More Than a Coalition

MHC's network includes nonprofits, businesses, government entities, economic development leaders, faith-based organizations, and community advocates. This collective approach enables MHC to address housing issues from multiple angles, from advocating for zoning reforms to supporting affordable housing development and amplifying community voices in policy discussions. [Click here and scroll](#) down to see a list of our partners.

If you're interested in becoming involved in the MHC efforts, please reach out to Lisa Barrett, MUW Sr. Operations Specialist, [lisa@muw.org](mailto:lisa@muw.org), and we will follow-up with you.

Sincerely,

Scott Brown, Branch Manager, Mascoma Bank  
Natalie Quevedo, Program Director, A.C.C.E.S.S.  
Winchester

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