



March 21, 2016

To our wonderful Garden Tour vendors, advertisers, and volunteers,

I am writing to inform you that Cheshire Housing Trust has decided not to host a Garden Tour in 2016.

When we discussed the 2016 Garden Tour with the members of the CHT Board, we discovered that the Board members who had been most involved in previous years had other obligations which would make it very difficult for them to handle the responsibilities involved in putting on this event. As you might imagine, the task of identifying gardens and persuading their owners to allow them to be used in the Garden Tour is a job which becomes a little more difficult each year.

This is not a decision to stop the Garden Tour altogether. We all hope that we can bring it back for an encore performance in a future year.

During the twenty years that CHT has put on the Garden Tour, I have found it to be the most enjoyable fundraising event I have ever been involved in. It is a wonderful community-building event! All of us have met lots of new friends and volunteers as we visited the surprising variety of delightful Keene gardens.

It has also been a wonderful event from the perspective of Cheshire Housing Trust itself, providing many yearlong benefits to the organization. It has definitely raised our profile in the Keene community. As we have built friendships, others have learned about our work in providing affordable housing for lower income families. This has increased the amount of our donations and applications for our housing. While our funding comes mainly from rents, the amount raised by the Garden Tour has been a critical piece of our annual budget.

All of the benefits of the Garden Tour would not have been possible without your help in making this event a social and financial success. We want to thank you for your help—and hope that we can give you a call in the future for similar types of assistance as we will be doing other smaller fundraisers this year. If you contribute to the Monadnock United Way, we want to thank you for that donation which is very important for the work we do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda Mangones', written over a horizontal line.

Linda Mangones
Executive Director

