

Cheshire Housing Trust has operated in the Monadnock Region for over 25 years as an organization, and we'd like to share with you a bit of our history and ties to the annual Cheshire Housing Trust Secret Garden Tour.

Cheshire Housing Trust was formed in 1987 by a group of Keene residents, social service staff, and church representatives who were very concerned about the rising cost of rents and homes. In 1986, rent costs increased by about 22%. There was a serious concern about the increasing loss of "workforce housing" with its negative impact on both working people and the community. After a year of discussion, this group formed Cheshire Housing Trust, a community land trust based on the principles of maintaining access to affordable housing and permanent affordability.

Our annual garden tour began over 12 years ago as a fundraiser and community outreach event. Through it we hope to support both our mission of affordable housing and community awareness. Every year we search for Keene gardens that are sanctuaries of peace and beauty and that carry a lively sense of individuality and ingenuity. Each year we come away with a sense of appreciation for our town, our residents, and the pride they take in beautifying their own part of the world. We hope you feel the same way!

If you would care to help out in either our garden tour or in our housing organization, please call our office at 603-357-7603 and leave a message.