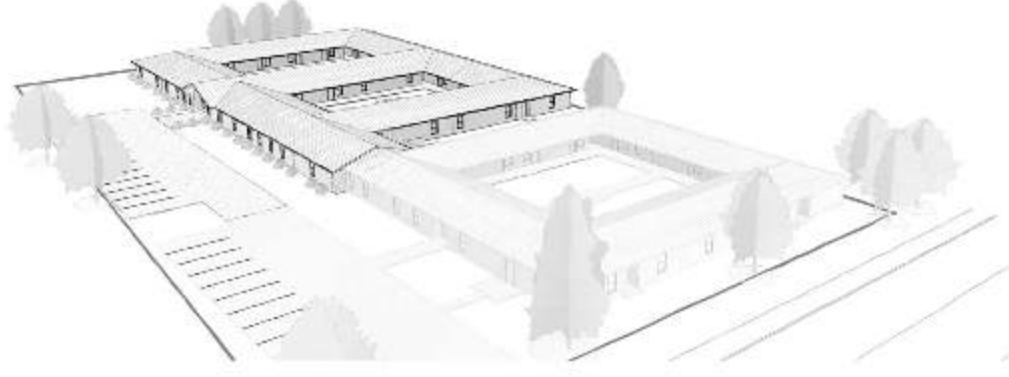




Holiday Happenings



December 12, 2018

Dear Friends,

It is always a joy to reflect on our year at the Bob Brown House and to share our journey with you. As with all of you, it has been a year of highs and lows but we are grateful to have each other and a safe, warm and loving place to call home. I am most proud of the mission accomplished at the Bob Brown House when the residents and staff love and care for each other in the simplest of ways. Just recently I think of Byron accompanying Clifford to the doctor when he wasn't feeling well, Hannah painting Mary and Shellie's fingernails and Ricky helping me carry in the Christmas tree. It was my Dad's original intent that we provide a family for those in need as well as a safe place to live. I am so pleased that 45 years later that is happening every day at the Bob Brown House.

I am excited to announce that we did receive the tax credit funding that we applied for in October of 2017. We will begin construction soon on 24 additional units and a wonderful new kitchen, dining and living area. This has been a long process and I am so thankful for the team that has helped me along the way. Sadly, the architect on our team was killed in a car crash on the interstate in October. He and I spent a lot of time together on this project and he truly appreciated our mission. I am praying for his wife and young children especially this holiday season. I am hoping my next Christmas letter will say the building is finished and we are filling up with new members of the Bob Brown House family.

The residents are all special and unique in their own way. There are the long timers June and Louise, blind sisters who have been with us almost 40 years, and Troy who just turned 51 and has lived at the BBH more than 25 years. Then we have a new resident from the neighborhood who really wanted to live on her own and not be a burden to her children. She tells me often how grateful she is and that means a lot to me. I love watching our 3 younger women making their own path towards independence at the BBH. Each resident brings their own gifts and challenges to our daily lives at the BBH but we are one big family for sure. That was never more evident than when we lost one of our dear residents in April. He became ill and died suddenly and we were devastated. He had been abandoned by his family so I was his caretaker and made all of his medical decisions. The residents came to see him at the hospital to say goodbye. We had his funeral at the BBH and buried his ashes in a beautiful dogwood tree outside the window of his apartment. It was a sad time for all of us but we think of him often and share our many memories together. I am so thankful he was loved by his BBH family and that we were able to love each other in our time of sadness. That is a true family.

We also want to thank our wonderful staff and many volunteers and supporters. Rick and Medina are the best employees. They are dependable and competent and caring. We have many volunteers and groups that come during the year. I have a dear friend that comes to cut hair regularly and another friend that comes to play music with his friends. New Life Baptist Church is an important part of our support system. They pick up our residents for church services. They are always ready to party. They bring cake and presents for every birthday. They pray for all of us and are always helping to meet our needs. The young adults from Broadway Baptist come once a month to entertain the residents. The Walnut Hill neighborhood club brings donations regularly and lots of goodies at Christmas. Guardian Bank brings lunch once a month and gives generously throughout the year. I have 4 wonderful friends that send money to the BBH each and every month. We depend on all of these volunteers and donations. We have so many needs and so little money. People are always shocked to learn that our budget is \$115,000 to run our facility. That is food, staff, utilities, maintenance, insurance, etc. Please consider helping at the Bob Brown House in any way, large or small. What can you do to make a difference? We always have repair work to do, painting and yard work. Can you take a resident to run an errand or go to the doctor? Can you gather canned foods or paper/cleaning supplies at your work or church? A kindergarten class just brought 100 cans of soup. What a great gift for us. Our residents are blessed but often those that give receive the biggest blessing. 2019 is going to be a wonderful year at the Bob Brown House! We wish the same for all of our friends and family!

Love and peace to all of you!
Amy Brown

www.bobbrownhouse.com

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