



Bob Brown House | 507 Rogers Rd | Lexington, KY 40505

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Dear Friends,

It is exceptionally exciting to catch all of you up on the events of the last year at the Bob Brown House. 2020 has definitely been challenging for all of us but we still have so much to be thankful for. The outbreak of COVID in our world hit our residents hard in many ways. We immediately ran out of toilet paper like the rest of you. Our situation made it on the news and we had a huge outpouring of help from the community. The canned goods and paper supplies we received sustained us for six months. Many folks sent money which helped us in several ways. Besides buying food, we were finally able to replace the HVAC system in the dining room, kitchen and staff apartment that had been broken for more than a year. We have been diligent in keeping our residents safe. It has been a struggle at times for them to fully understand the pandemic and what we must do to stay healthy. We have several residents that are in the high-risk category. For protection we have limited visitors and limited the non-essential activities of our residents. So far, and I am knocking on wood as I type, we have avoided COVID at the Bob Brown House.

Amidst all the bad news we are encouraged every day by the beautiful building going up adjacent to the Bob Brown House. After the rain finally stopped in the early spring the construction has been progressing at full speed. Independence Homes will have 24 apartments and new kitchen, dining and living space. Although it took 3 years, many stumbling blocks and disappointments, the joy I feel when I walk up to the building is overwhelming. BEX Construction and REB architects have been wonderful partners in this project that fully understand and support our mission. We have squeaked by with no supply chain issues so far. I am even hoping for an early completion date of May or June. We have a waitlist started for these apartments so if you know someone that is interested, they can go to our website for an application at [bobbrownhouse.com](http://bobbrownhouse.com). If you are ever in the neighborhood, please pull in and take a look at the new building.

I am also pleased to announce that we are working on purchasing another property in Fayette County to continue our expansion. I have had my eye on this property for a while and when the opportunity came forward, I moved quickly. It is a 10,000 sq ft building in a beautiful rural setting. We are working on the funding now and hoping to close the deal soon. Since the expansion on Rogers Rd is not finished yet and new grants cannot be written until next year the timing of this opportunity has caused some funding issues. But again, I have another great team helping me to make this happen. Because the need is so huge for what we provide and this property is such a perfect fit, I am determined to see it through. This will be home and family for another 18 special needs folks looking to begin their journey towards independence.

Thanks so much for your support of the Bob Brown House this year. As you can see, we are always working to help others. We could not continue this work without your help. There will be many needs and wants to come at Independence Homes. We would love to have some new items to cook with in our new kitchen. We will need a new TV and some couches for the living room. The other property needs some new paint and new flooring to make it feel like a home. You can truly make a difference in the lives of our residents by donating to the Bob Brown House. You can donate directly from our web page or our Facebook page or by sending a check in the mail. As 2020 draws to an end we are counting our blessings and hoping for a happier and healthier 2021 for everyone. We wish all of you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Best wishes,  
Amy Brown

