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Lawn mower donated after non-profit was targeted by thieves



(WKYT)

By Caitlin Centner

Published: Sep. 16, 2016 at 3:40 PM EDT





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Community

Buddies needed at Brown Housing for Handicapped

By Linda VanHoose
Herald-Leader staff writer

If you like to shop, read or talk, Bob W. Brown Housing for the Handicapped wants you.

The facility is trying to organize a program similar to the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program that will pair volunteers with its 15 residents.

Volunteers are needed to read to blind residents and to help them fill out checks. All the residents need help with shopping, and they need "buddies" who will spend time with them.

"We want volunteers who can be a companion and friend to the resident," said Sue Montgomery, who for the last year has served as resident manager along with her husband, Tom.

"Just someone to listen to them — someone they could pick up the phone and call when they have had a bad night's sleep or need something."

On a recent afternoon, Amy Brown Thomas — daughter of the late Rev. Bob W. Brown, for whom the facility is named — read Christmas cards to Louise and Martha Coyle.

In return, the blind sisters gave Thomas a Braille lesson.

The idea for the facility goes back to Christmas Day 1973, when Brown visited some blind friends who were very poor. He was concerned that there were many handi-

capped people in the community who needed better housing.

Brown, who was pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, wanted people of many faiths to create a place for the handicapped.

Sixteen years ago, his dream became a reality.

Through the work of Jews, Catholics, Methodists, Baptists and people of other religions, the home on Rogers Road has provided housing, meals and other services to more than 100 people over the years. It now is home to 15 people from 21 to 91 years old.

The facility, which opened in 1975, was originally named Lexington Housing for the Handicapped. It was renamed in 1980 after Brown's death.

The concept of Bob W. Brown Housing for the Handicapped grew out of the Blind Buddies program at Trinity Baptist, which matches sighted volunteers with those who have limited vision.

The private, non-profit residence is financed by private donations from individuals and companies, and doesn't receive any government funds.

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Additional volunteers are needed. The facility also needs skilled laborers like electricians and plumbers. The facility is also taking applications for its occupancy waiting list. For information, call Sue Montgomery at 293-0886.



Herald-Leader/Tom Marks

Amy Brown Thomas, left, daughter of the founder of Bob W. Brown Housing for the Handicapped, visits resident Louise Coyle, who is blind.



Cletus Martin, who is 81 and blind, pays his bills with check-writing assistance from staff member Helen Harris.



Resident manager Sue Montgomery helps resident Shirley Waits, 67, put the finishing touches on a wreath.



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CENTRAL KENTUCKY

More independent living coming to Lexington

Posted: Oct 7, 2021 / 10:43 AM EDT
Updated: Oct 7, 2021 / 12:50 PM EDT



Amy Brown announces the opening of Independence Homes, October 7, 2021. (Georgiarea Godfrey/Fox 56)

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