

Bob Brown House & Independence Homes

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Dear Friends, Family and Everyone Who Believes in Our Work,

From our big, busy, noisy, love-filled homes and now our brand-new farm we send you the warmest Christmas greetings and deepest gratitude. 2025 has been a banner year for Independence Homes and the Bob Brown House. Although the year started on a low note when we chose to walk away from the hotel deal in Winchester, it has ended on a literal high with two houses up on a hill on 45 acres in Mt. Sterling. After lots of prayer and consideration, Matt and I purchased the farm in October and residents started moving in immediately. We searched for properties all summer but kept coming back to this place in this county very close to Lexington. Matt will grow Christmas trees on the acres in the back and we hope to expand into more apartment buildings in the front. This farm isn't just land—it's a future.

None of this would happen without our incredible team, who pour their hearts into every resident every single day. Katie Mangus, our weekend staff person on Rogers for many years, has moved to the farm with her boyfriend, Aaron, to manage the new location. They are excited about raising chickens and goats, as well as our new family of 12 residents. I am so thankful for Chef Tim, Mike, Rebecca, Medina, Annetta, Tiffany, Andy and Little Andy that keep us afloat on Rogers Rd and Cleveland Rd. It is a blessing for me to see Hannah and Sadie carrying our mission and their heritage into a new generation with the same love that started it all more than 50 years ago with their grandparents, Bob and Helen Brown.

As of today, we have 65 residents in our four locations. We still are receiving calls and emails for housing nearly every day. We provide all meals, laundry, security, social activities, friendship and family. It's not easy and it's not cheap. The rising cost of groceries has really hurt our tiny budget. Fundraising has become more important than ever. We need to raise money to not only cover the higher cost of groceries but for repairs and maintenance on our aging buildings. The handicapped shower room just had a major overhaul on Cleveland and the courtyard on Rogers needs new gutters and new storm doors. We are also hoping to add 12 more units on the farm next year. Your donation is vital for our continued care of this population and our growth in the future. As always, thanks for your prayers and support this last year and in the new year to come.

Merry Christmas from Amy and everyone at Independence Homes and the Bob Brown House!
(and a few chickens and goats that haven't even moved in yet!)