



*Dear friends,*

*The timing of this letter shows how busy this year has been for us at the Bob Brown House and Independence Homes. I usually send out our greetings in November but it is Christmas Eve and I'm just now sitting down to write to all of you. The first half of the year was consumed with construction on Rogers Rd and the new purchase on Cleveland Rd. This second half has been about staffing up and filling up both locations. Independence Homes on Rogers opened August 1. It is a beautiful expansion with 24 apartments, new living and dining space, a large laundry room, and a wonderful kitchen. We have 22 new residents and more on the way. I have dreamed for years of a place for young people to use the skills they have learned in school and fulfill their dreams of living independently. I am so pleased to say that two-thirds of our new residents are in their 20's and have adjusted very well. We are so proud of them. One of the best parts of this work is watching them all learn to love and care for each other. I wish I had time to write about each one because they are all special in their own way. Sadie is doing a great job on social media introducing the residents. Check out our Facebook page to watch the videos. I'm sure they will make you smile. That's another great thing about our work here...the residents are always making us laugh. We are so pleased to have added a professional chef to our team on Rogers. He is Hannah's neighbor and long-time friend. After many, many years at Lexmark he wanted to try something different and reached out to us. What a blessing he is to our work*

*and our waistline!!*

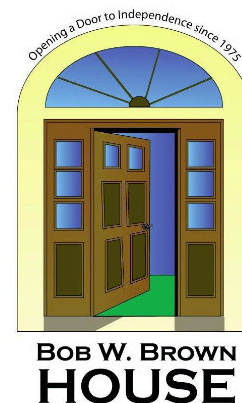
*We closed on the Cleveland Rd property in March and immediately began a total renovation. BIA Cares, the non-profit arm of the Builder's Association, helped me get started on the painting and new flooring. We also put in all new bathroom fixtures, new lighting and changed the office area into the staff apartment. Per usual, the renovation was much more extensive than expected. Most of the plumbing had to be replaced. The large commercial fridge and the ice machine quit. The fire alarm and sprinkler system were not adequate. The building inspector required all new doorknobs and self-closing doors. We applied and received an Affordable Housing Trust Fund grant from Lexington that helped pay for a portion of the renovation. Now we are waiting to hear if we will receive any of the city's COVID relief funds that we have also applied for. Our first residents came in November and we currently have six with more coming next week. Another significant blessing was the day a wonderful lady named Angie walked thru the door for an interview. Hannah and I knew immediately she was truly a gift from God. She is the live-in staff person and works the weekend shift. She shares our heart and passion for helping others and loves to cook!!*

*Finishing both of these projects in the same short span of time has been an overwhelming amount of work and stress. But I am even more aware today of the need for what we provide in our community than I was when I started dreaming of expanding several years ago. I am so grateful for the team that has guided me and supported our work in every way. I'm thankful for Hannah and Sadie's dedication to our mission and for my husband who is our strong tower and wise counsel. And my deepest appreciation to all of you that have been supporting us with your prayers, encouragement and donations. With so many new people we continue to have many needs. As always, you can help by assigning your Kroger rewards and your Amazon purchases to the Bob Brown House. You can also easily donate from our FaceBook page or our website [bobbrownhouse.com](http://bobbrownhouse.com). Telling others about the Bob Brown House/Independence Homes will also help us fill up faster and raise awareness for our mission. If you have any questions or would like a tour of either location, please call 859 293 0886. All of us are wishing all of you a happy, healthy New Year!*

Amy Brown

[www.bobbrownhouse.com](http://www.bobbrownhouse.com)

[www.independencehomes.net](http://www.independencehomes.net)



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