



Bob Brown House & Independence Homes

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Dear friends,

When I sit down to write this newsletter every year it is always easy to list the reasons we have to be thankful at the Bob Brown House and Independence Homes. We continue to be home and family to 56 special people. Every day is a joy and a challenge. Our residents come from a variety of backgrounds, each with their own gifts and their own needs. Their age range is from 20-80 something. It is a blessing to be able to provide for them a safe, affordable place to call home. I have the best staff that shows their dedication and commitment to our mission and our people in so many ways.

It has been another year full of fun events like the Legends game, Evans Orchard and Gattitown. We've had parties for Valentines, St. Patrick's, Halloween and Christmas. We had lots of cars and volunteers for our trunk or treat this year and the residents enjoyed dressing in costume. In the spring we all danced the night away at our annual prom. They love choosing their favorites for King and Queen. Sadie planned a new event at Top Golf this year and everyone had a great time. We also had another successful golf tournament at the Woodford Club in Versailles in May. This annual event is an important part of our fundraising that adds necessary funds to our budget.

I just reread the newsletter from 2022 and it listed three big projects that needed to be done at our Cleveland Rd location. I am so pleased to say that all three were finished this year. We received some grants to replace the ancient HVAC system and to put a huge roof over the patio. From our fundraising and your donations we were able to repair the dishwasher and replace the refrigerator. Because our budget is tiny and barely covers our operating expenses we have to have help with any major repairs or upgrades. We are thankful that we were able to make these improvements this year.

It is also exciting to announce that we were able to purchase a very nice, large house directly across the street from our Rogers Rd location. Hannah and three residents moved into the home in May. They can walk across the street for all of their meals and to hang out with their friends. Because of the location and size of the home it was just a perfect addition to our mission.

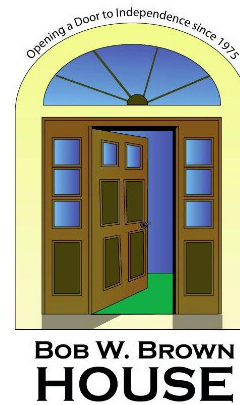
As you know I am always looking for a way to expand our capacity. At the beginning of this year I was made aware of a hotel in Winchester that was interested in selling the property. Upon my first visit I realized that flipping a hotel was a much more feasible way to provide apartments than new construction. After much deliberation we agreed

upon an offer and wrote a grant to the Federal Home Loan Bank for a large portion of the contract price. We received some FHLB funds for the new building on Rogers so we were hopeful that we would receive the grant again. We just found out last week that we were not awarded funds. It was a big blow but we have moved on to some other funding avenues and hope to still make the deal very soon. The hotel will have 60 fully furnished apartments. The kitchen and dining room has been gutted and needs a complete renovation including new appliances and equipment. There is a nice lobby and a large event space that will become our living room/common area. It really is perfect in so many ways. I am praying daily that we will find a way to make this happen. There is so much need.

In 1975 the first residents moved into the Bob Brown House. We will celebrate 50 years of service in this coming year. Our work could not continue without the support of our community and all of you. I am so thankful for each of you that donate in one way or another. We have had a few groups come this year to do yard work, painting, cleaning and bringing meals. I have a few friends that donate regularly. No matter how big or small each gift is important and directly impacts the lives of our residents. Please consider making a donation or gather up your friends and come volunteer. We need you. On behalf of all the residents and staff at the Bob Brown House and Independence Homes we wish you the happiest days this holiday season!

Thanks so much,

Amy Brown



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