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Dear Friends,

As we begin to settle into another year, it is impossible not to reflect on 2021 with sincere gratitude. As you review the enclosed Impact Report, the numbers represent more than success -- they represent individual lives impacted by your steadfast support and kindness.

Even more so, an impact report visually helps us understand the many layers of programming and support needed for those escaping domestic violence. A great example of this is found in the comprehensive support of the Housing, Economic Empowerment & Employment Advocacy programs. This specific layered support of establishing housing and economic stability is critical for ending the cycle of violence and ensuring the overall health of families. I like to think of it this way . . . the long-term solution to creating a safe future is a home of your own and the income to survive.

It's because of this I want to personally thank you all for your dedication to Rose Brooks Center's mission. You allow our staff the ability to problem solve and help create safe futures for the incredibly resilient and strong survivors we serve.

With a grateful heart,

Lisa Fleming, CEO

P.S. I have to share that this past December we had 52 families with 111 children in homes of their own for the holidays. This is a gift that will live on in the homes and lives of survivors for generations to come.

Pediatric Care In The Safety of Shelter

When children come to Rose Brooks Center, they too are wrapped in services, including addressing their healthcare needs. Because of this, and as part of our Health Services Program, Rose Brooks offers a pediatric clinic twice each month with the help of pediatrician, Dr. Deann DeWitt.

As children develop, it is vital that they are seen by a physician who understands their unique health needs. With 30 years of experience, Dr. DeWitt knows the importance of offering such specialized care and volunteers her time. She is also a member of Rose Brooks Center's Medical Advisory Board.*

When asked why she decided to help provide such a needed resource, she responded, “I understand that not everyone has equal access to healthcare and I wanted to give back in a way that was meaningful to both Rose Brooks and their youngest residents.”

Dr. DeWitt assists children of all ages and helps them with their immediate and long-term healthcare needs, while answering questions and providing support to parents. *To read more about our clinic or the Medical Advisory Board, visit our newsletter online at https://inbloom.rosebrooks.org/medical-advisory-board/.
Fully Private Spaces

The general structure of an emergency shelter is not unlike that of a traditional home. In your home you have a kitchen, a place to do laundry, a bedroom with a closet for your clothes, and if you are very lucky, you also have your own bathroom.

As a response to COVID and with funding from Kansas City’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, Rose Brooks Center’s emergency shelter now has **fully private spaces**, including private bathrooms, small refrigerators, individual thermostats, and tables for meals, work, or homework.

Funding specifically supported the reconstruction of existing shared bathrooms into 20 individual bathrooms. Prior to COVID, and prior to the reconstruction, families commonly shared rooms with other individuals recovering from trauma. Today, with completely private rooms, not only has it reduced the amount of time and expense to sanitize shared bathrooms, it has also reduced the recurrence of trauma among residents.

When families come to shelter, preceding their arrival they’ve had to endure violence from a loved one. As they enter their private and temporary home at Rose Brooks Center, their dignity is restored -- and for that we say “thank you Kansas City.”

Tax Credits Increase in July!

Great news about Missouri Domestic Violence Tax Credits! The amount of credit a donor receives will increase from 50% to 70%, **beginning July 1, 2022**. If you are an individual or business that has Missouri tax liability, and give more than $100 to Rose Brooks Center throughout the year, you can receive a 70% tax credit. Please note that tax credit applications have to be submitted within one year of the gift.

Applying for a tax credit only requires you to fill out less than 10 fields on the application. Fill it out, sign it, provide proof of the donation, then mail in the original to Rose Brooks Center – **and you’re done**. To learn more about tax credits, read frequently asked questions, or to download an application please visit: [www.rosebrooks.org/how-to-help/tax-credit-and-stock/](http://www.rosebrooks.org/how-to-help/tax-credit-and-stock/).
**Pets as Roommates**

The human-animal bond is so important to well-being, especially in times of distress. For victims of domestic violence, their pet may be their only source of comfort and support. Since 2012, Rose Brooks Center has had an on-site pet shelter and fully staffed pet program, allowing families to bring their pets to shelter with them. With the recent renovation of creating private spaces, survivors now have the option to keep their beloved pets in their rooms — allowing them to live and heal together in the same secure space.

Learn more about our pet program at: [www.rosebrooks.org/services/pet-shelter/](http://www.rosebrooks.org/services/pet-shelter/).

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**Foundations of Care**

Rose Brooks Center’s three foundations of care are at the core of our most recent strategic plan. They help us establish structure throughout our programming, and allow us to accomplish our mission of breaking the cycle of domestic violence.

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**Keeping Families Safe** provides a lifeline of support for victims and survivors, as well as safe housing and shelter where individuals, families, and pets find healing and a new beginning.

**Creating a Safer Community** extends critical services into the surrounding community — in places such as hospitals, courts, and alongside law enforcement.

**Ending the Cycle** addresses violence prevention through early intervention, education, therapy, and health services, while offering tools to establish income stability for survivors.

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**Safeguarding The Futures of Survivors**

Many of our supporters create lasting legacy gifts in their estate plans to support our mission. These supporters are called Rose Brooks Guardians and they help safeguard the futures of the survivors we serve every day. Whether you would like to put your donation to work today or benefit those we serve after your lifetime, you can find a charitable plan that helps you provide for your family and also support Rose Brooks Center.

We know legacy giving and estate planning can seem complicated and expensive. We’re pleased to offer FreeWill as an alternative: it makes estate planning simple, accessible, and 100% free for Rose Brooks supporters. Get peace of mind by updating or creating your legal will, including any estates plans, all in 20 minutes or less, by visiting [www.freewill.com/rosebrooks](http://www.freewill.com/rosebrooks).

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Please visit our website for more information, or contact Marla Svoboda, Chief Development Officer, with any questions about gifts at marla@rosebrooks.org.