



From the desk of President & CEO Orion Bell

Progress is Not Linear

Throughout the month of February, many organizations observe Black History Month. It is an opportunity to celebrate the contributions, sacrifices and successes of African Americans, and the roles they have played in the history of our country. Black History Month also serves as a reminder that the people and their accomplishments are often overlooked, or discounted, or forgotten. The acknowledgement

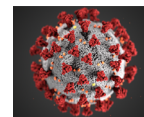
of their contributions to our society, culture and history also carries a message that we are a more enlightened, more inclusive people than in the past.

This year feels different. Progress is not linear. The events of the past year have brought our differences, and our inequities, into sharper focus. The pandemic, the murder of George Floyd, a divisive and bitter election and its aftermath, shook us, and required us to confront our perceptions and our beliefs about who we are. It is an opportunity to recognize the inequities that exist, and more importantly, find ways to address and eliminate them.

Read the full article at benrose.org/ceo-blog.

Benjamin Rose Response to COVID-19

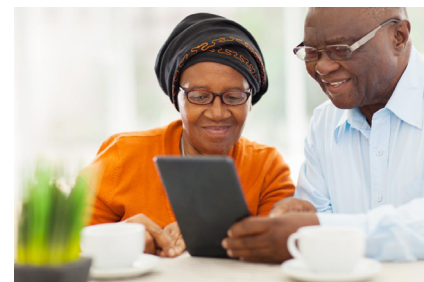
Visit benrose.org/COVID-19 for the latest vaccination information, as well as updates on services and programs, resources for staying active while staying at home, and ways that you can help older adults in our community.



Resources for Caregiving

Visit our Resource Library to find tips and useful information for caregivers.

Each month, we add new content to help caregivers manage a loved one's care, navigate challenges and take care of themselves. Recent articles explore topics such as [understanding different types of dementia](#), [preventing falls](#), [responsibilities when parents weren't there for you](#), [self-esteem boosting tips](#), [understanding caregiver feelings](#), and [care coaching](#).



Ways to Help

MAKE A GIFT

We need your help to protect and care for the most vulnerable people in our community— older adults, adults with disabilities and caregivers— during the Coronavirus Pandemic. [Make a gift today](#).

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are needed to deliver meals and make wellness calls to isolated older adults during the pandemic. [More information and volunteer signup](#).

Free Tax Preparation

The new year is here! This means your tax documents will soon arrive. Let ESOP prepare your 2020 taxes for FREE!

- Get your refund — usually in two weeks — at no cost to you! Don't get scammed!
- IRS-certified preparers perform this valuable service (bilingual)
- FREE to clients who meet program income guidelines



With the COVID-19 pandemic, our tax services are being offered remotely through: DRIVE-UP SERVICE and DROP-OFF SERVICE. ESOP's tax site is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, February 4 - April 10, 2021.

To schedule your appointment, visit www.refundohio.org or call 216.373.1730.



Mortgage Assistance Program

ESOP is honored to have received a \$1 million contract award of \$2 million in funding that Cuyahoga County obtained for its Mortgage Assistance Program (MAP). MAP offers mortgage payment assistance to homeowners who have been impacted by COVID-19 via a zero-interest, deferred loan of up to \$2000.

The loan is payable upon sale or transfer of the property. These loans are now available to Cuyahoga County homeowners, enhancing our foreclosure prevention services and connecting residents with wraparound resources. Residents who are interested in learning more about the Mortgage Assistance Program can call ESOP at (216) 361-0718.

Upcoming Programs

COVID & Quarantine: The Mental Health Consequences

[Virtual program for caregivers.](#)

Wednesday, March 3, 12:00 PM

Second Wednesdays

[Learn more about Benjamin Rose programs & services.](#) March 10, 9:00AM

Virtual Trivia Tuesday

[Join us for online trivia!](#) March 16, 7:00 PM

Homebuyer Education

[Learn the important basics of the homebuying process.](#) March 16—18, 6:00PM

Senior Financial Education Workshops

[Virtual workshops to help older adults take charge of their finances.](#) Every other week beginning March 1 at 10:00AM or 1:00PM.

Staff Notes

Loretta Regel, LSW, Group Facilitator and CIS Analyst, virtually presented as overview of Benjamin Rose for CareSource in February.

Lisa Weitzman, WeCare Administrator and Manager of Business Development, virtually presented Successfully Managing Your Parent's Aging to the Union Club Women's Group as well as An Integrated Approach to the Social Determinants of Health: BRIA's Response to COVID-19 to the Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program ECHO Meeting.

Benjamin Rose staff continue to provide informative articles for caregivers for the faith-based online publication Guideposts:

[5 Ways to Assist and Older Adult with Budgeting](#) by **Tiffany Taylor** and **Julie Hayes**

[How to Find Time for Yourself as a Dementia Caregiver](#) by **Nicholas Fenell**