



*From the desk of President & CEO Orion Bell*

## **Social Workers are Essential**

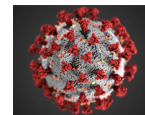
This year's Social Work Month theme, "Social Workers Are Essential," embodies the heroic contributions of the Social Work profession to our nation, including the work Social Workers have done to heal our nation during these times of pandemic, racial unrest, economic uncertainty and political divisiveness.

The concept of social work arose in the United States in the years following the Civil War, as the country dealt with needs of veterans, widows and orphans, a rising population of immigrants and freedman, the former slaves who were now emancipated. Voluntary service organizations, faith-based institutions and benevolent societies were formed to address the needs of persons who struggled to care for themselves or their families. Some of the best known nonprofit organization in the country, think of the YMCA or the American Red Cross, as well as local institutions and settlement houses, like Hull House in Chicago, or fraternal organizations like the Hibernians were formed or expanded in this era. They founded hospitals, fire departments, public health program, orphanages and "old age homes," life and health insurance and pension plans.

Read the full article at [benrose.org/ceo-blog](https://benrose.org/ceo-blog).

## **Benjamin Rose Response to COVID-19**

Visit [benrose.org/COVID-19](https://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 [navigating the different stages of Alzheimer's Disease](#), [caregiver support to combat stress](#) and our [newest guest caregiver blog](#).



## **Cleveland International Film Festival**

Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging is a Community Partner for the 45th Cleveland International Film Festival. Tickets are on sale now! We are a Community Partner in support of the film, **Sanremo**, which tells a love story in which fragmented memories are brought back to mind by a song. Use our discount code **ROSE** and you will receive \$1 off the purchase of a ticket at checkout. Visit [clevelandfilm.org](https://clevelandfilm.org) to purchase tickets.





## Benjamin Rose Joins the MetroHealth Buckeye Community Resource Center

Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging will be joining the Buckeye Community Resource Center at the MetroHealth Community Health Center. Designated staff from Behavioral Health Services, ESOP, WeCare and Rose Centers will be rotating remote and onsite office hours at Benjamin Rose’s satellite office. MetroHealth

offers more than health care services at their Buckeye Health Center. They work with community organizations to offer: family support services, housing and utility assistance, food assistance, safety information, educational services and financial education. The services are provided by community based organizations (CBO) and available to everybody in the community not just MetroHealth patients.

## Our Answer to the Digital Divide



We just passed a significant calendar milestone: one year of sheltering in place. While this has been a psychologically and emotionally taxing time for all of us, take a moment to think about how you would have fared this past year without the benefit of virtual connectivity to family, friends, medical services, banking and having basic needs delivered, like food and household essentials. No Zoom, No Facebook. No Amazon. No ability to connect with loved ones and essential services other than a telephone.

Social isolation was already one of the biggest challenges facing our older adult population. COVID-19 and the Digital Divide -- the gap between those able to benefit from the digital age and those who are not -- exacerbated this problem significantly, leaving many members of our community virtually shut out from the rest of society.

Worse, many of our seniors live on fixed incomes, struggle to make ends meet financially, and cannot afford the technology required to keep them engaged socially and connected to critical social services that ensure their basic needs are met.

[Empowering and Strengthening Ohio’s People \(ESOP\)](#), a subsidiary of Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging, in partnership with [Ashbury Senior Community Computer Center \(ASC3\)](#), and [DigitalC](#), is proud to announce a new collaborative program: Virtual Services for Older Adults.

The collaboration between these three Cleveland non-profits is designed to eliminate the Digital Divide in our community. [Learn more.](#)



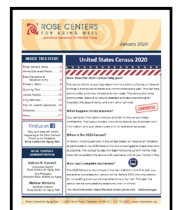
## Thanks to Neighborhood Family Practice

Thank you to our friends at Neighborhood Family Practice who partnered with the Gunning Park Rose Center to vaccinate homebound older adults.

Many of our clients are unable to leave their homes and rely on our services to provide them with basic needs. Neighborhood Family Practice allowed our clients access to the vaccine, without having to leave their homes.

## Rose Centers Newsletter

Get the latest news and program schedules from the Rose Centers for Aging Well. Sign up today at [ourseniorcenter.com](https://ourseniorcenter.com).



## Upcoming Programs



### Aging in Place

[Virtual program for caregivers.](#)

Wednesday, April 7, 12:00 PM

### Second Wednesdays

[Learn more about Benjamin Rose programs & services.](#) April 14, 9:00AM

### Homebuyer Education

[Learn the important basics of the homebuying process.](#) April 19—22, 6:00PM

### Senior Financial Education Workshops

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

## 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.](#)

## Amazon Smile

Support Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging when you do your shopping at [Amazon Smile!](#)



## Staff Notes

*Tamar Cooper, LISW-S, LICDC-CS, Associate Director of Behavioral Health Services, and Doug Braun, MSSA, LISW-S, Clinical Social Worker, virtually presented Mental Health 101 and Challenges of Aging for the LGBT Community for the Cleveland Department of Aging.*

*Lisa Weitzman, MSSA, LISW-S, ASW-G, C-ASWCM, virtually presented The Emotional side of Moving a Loved One for the Hamlet Retirement Community and Emotional and Financial Caregiving for Providence Baptist Church. Lisa was also interviewed by Thrive Global for an article on [Taking Care of You](#) as well as Crain's Cleveland Business for their article on [mental preparation central to successful reunions with older loved ones.](#)*

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

[5 Tips for Better Virtual Connection with Your Loved One](#) by **Ashlee Cordell**

[Caregiving and Its Rollercoaster Ride of Emotions](#) by **Lisa Weitzman**