

NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Hi Friends,

When was the last time you set a goal to be in crisis?

Do you aspire to be homeless in 90 days? Are you looking forward to the day when you can finally retire into poverty after a lifetime of work and subsist exclusively on Social Security?

Of course not. No one charts a course for crisis.

Yet, most first-time ESOP clients come to us at the average age of 65, with an annual income less than \$17,000, panicked and desperately seeking relief from a housing or financial emergency.

ESOP's team of HUD Certified Counselors takes great pride in helping our clients resolve housing and financial hardships. However, our greatest satisfaction comes when we help a client move from crisis to capable.

Resolving the crisis is always our first order of business – but – our **vision** is for every client to have economic opportunity, financial stability and a safe place to live.

ESOP helps our clients achieve greater financial independence by combining knowledge, skills, and access to resources, which leads to lasting, sustainable behavioral change. We refer to this as **financial capability**, and it is a tool of empowerment that is needed now more than ever. To illustrate:

- The temporary safety nets of the eviction and foreclosure moratoria are about to be removed.
- As of July 2021, 6.5 million renter households were behind on rent; more than 50% of these households earn less than \$35,000.
- Most of the \$47 billion in federal assistance programs allocated for relief has yet to hit the streets.

As a society, we once again seem to be on the precipice. As affected members of the community and leaders at the forefront of this crisis, what's in our control to effect positive change?

No one seeks a crisis, but we do have to learn to navigate them as they arise. Over the coming months, the team at ESOP will be sharing some very specific tools and strategies to help our clients and the community understand the power, choices, connections, and commitments required to move from crisis to capable.

Stay safe and well!



Michael Billnitzer

Executive Director, Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People (ESOP)

Vice President, Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging

Meet Our Newest HUD-Certified Housing and Financial Counselor!

We are thrilled to welcome Bolanle "Bo" Ogundapo to the ESOP team as a HUD-Certified Housing and Financial Counselor. Bolanle is available for clients to schedule an appointment one-on-one counseling to help reduce debt, decrease expenses, increase income and build savings. She will be the presenter of our Senior Financial Empowerment Workshop on Taking Control of Credit and Debt.

[Register for an upcoming workshop now!](#)



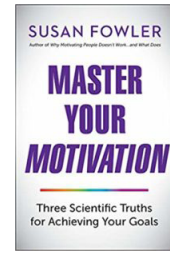
Behind on Property Taxes?

Cuyahoga County property taxes were due in July. If you are age 55 or older and have gotten behind on your property taxes, you may be eligible for a 0% interest loan to get current. Call or email us today to learn what your options are.

Please Join ESOP for “From Crisis to Capable

Featuring Susan Fowler, co-author of the bestselling *Self-Leadership and The One Minute Manager* with Ken Blanchard

Regardless of income, age, race, creed, color or positional power, each of us have areas where we know we need to make change, but we just can't find the motivation to take action. Whether improving our finances, health, relationships or professional growth, the COVID-19 pandemic has magnified our need to master positive and sustainable behavioral change.



“Motivation is at the heart of everything you do and everything you want to do, but don't,” says [Susan Fowler](#), co-author of the bestselling *Self Leadership and The One Minute Manager* with Ken Blanchard, the creator and lead developer of The Ken Blanchard Company's *Self Leadership*, the best-in-class self-leadership and personal empowerment program.

If you've ever wondered why you just can't seem to start saving, begin exercising, kick a bad habit or achieve any other objective, this event will help you get going – and keep going – with a little inspiration from ESOP's own clients who have been able to achieve their financial and housing goals by moving From Crisis to Capable on Oct. 14 at 12 p.m. ET. Hear closing remarks and insights from Ken Blanchard.



[Register now!](#)



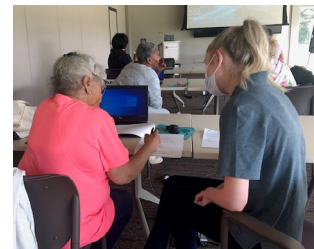
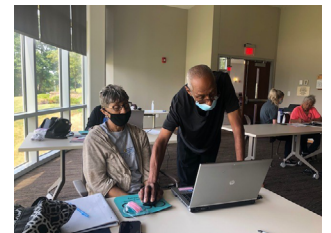
At Risk of Foreclosure or Eviction and Want to Know Your Options?

Approximately 6.5 million renter households were behind on rent in early July. In Cleveland, Ohio one in every 3,715 housing units had a foreclosure filing. If you're having trouble paying rent or your mortgage, you are NOT alone. Get in touch now. ESOP may be able to help with relief and solutions. Call (216) 361.0718 or [request an appointment](#).

Closing the Digital Divide

We see firsthand how the digital divide can be a barrier to financial capability. That's why we're working with partners at DigitalC and Ashbury Senior Computer Community Center to bridge technology gaps that prevent people from achieving financial wellness and housing stability.

Here are a few pictures from our current cohort taking part in technology training from Ashbury Senior Computer Community Center, which is made possible by generous support from Huntington Bank. Adults age 55 and over interested in enrolling in next class should contact Tiffany Taylor at (216) 373-1849.



Movie in the Moonlight!

Join the Benjamin Rose Institute Young Professional Council for their inaugural Movie Night Fundraiser, presented by HW&Co., on Saturday, Aug. 28. Bring blankets and chairs for a movie under the stars with a special outdoor showing of *The Intern* on our lawn.

[Get tickets and event information.](#)



We Saved You a Spot—Homebuyer Education Class

ESOP's next Homebuyer Education course starts Monday, Sept. 20 at 6 p.m.

During this no-cost, virtual class you can get your questions about purchasing a home answered. You'll learn

- Homeownership Readiness
- Budgeting and Credit Management
- Financing
- Accessing Affordable Mortgage Products
- Accessing Downpayment Assistance
- Shopping for a Home
- Maintaining a Home



For more information or to register, contact Elizabeth Sanchez, Homeownership Manager, at esanchez@benrose.org or (216) 373-1823.

Can't make the next class? We offer Homebuyer Education every month, as well as classes in Spanish!

Our Next Aging in Place: Know Your Housing Options Session Starts Aug. 23

Think of the older adult you care about most. Is their home safe? Is it affordable?

Is there a better option for them, like a retirement community, independent living, assisted living and skilled nursing center? What are the differences between them, and how will which option is best?

What do you need to know about tax and legal implications and changes to benefits if they sell their home?

Join us from the comfort of home for a free 4-part series to get your questions answered about the many factors to aging successfully in place.

Contact Bridget Holmes for more information or to register (216) 373-1789 BHolmes@benrose.org.



CONTACT US:
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**AGING IN PLACE:
KNOW YOUR HOUSING OPTIONS**

FREE VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS
JOIN US BY PHONE, TABLET, OR COMPUTER

AUGUST 23, 24, 25 & 26
1:00 -2:30 PM

This four-part series will cover the following:

- ✓ Assessing your home: is it safe, accessible, and affordable?
- ✓ Using your home to keep your home: single-purpose, equity loans & reverse mortgages.
- ✓ Understanding the various types of senior housing options.
- ✓ Reviewing the benefits, tax and legal issues.

ESOP is a subsidiary of the Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging.

In Case You Missed It

Orion Bell, President and CEO of Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging, and Sonya Edwards, Executive Director and Broker of [Branches Real Estate](#), were featured in "[Successful Aging in Place Doesn't 'Just Happen'.](#)"

Sonya was also on the [Feisty Side of Fifty](#) where she discussed aging in place.

Anyone considering retirement and concerned about financial security and general wellbeing should check these out!

ESOP's Community Engagement Manager, Mary Norris-Pack (pictured right), volunteered with the Kosher Food Pantry to get [fresh produce to older adults](#).



Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People (ESOP) is a subsidiary of the Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging. We help adults in all stages of life achieve and maintain financial wellness and housing stability at no cost to the people who need them. Learn how to support ESOP at www.esop-cleveland.org/donate.

Contact Us: esopcalls@benrose.org • 216.361.0718

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