



*From the desk of President & CEO Orion Bell*

## Swings

Last week, the swings were back up in the playground of the park near our house. I pass by them several times a day when we take our dog Ted for a walk. It was a mild afternoon and kids were out in the sun. They climbed on the play stations and slid down the slides, but most of the activity was at the swing set. Who can swing highest? Fastest? Who is brave enough to jump? One child turned circles, twisting the chain into a double helix

laughing and spinning in circles as the chain unwound. On another swing, a big sister “helped” push her little sister (“No! I can do it!”). Meanwhile, parents watched nearby.

It was about this time last year that the swings were taken down and the playground gear was wrapped in yellow caution tape. The splash park never opened. There were no kids’ soccer leagues or pick-up baseball games. By late summer, children came back to the play stations. (I wonder which child was the first to ride the slide through the caution tape?) But there were no swings. Until now.

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



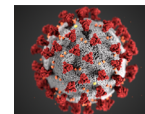
## #StigmaFreeCLE Collaborative Community Awareness Campaign

Benjamin Rose is proud to announce its participation in the #StigmaFreeCLE campaign, a public awareness partnership of over 30 local organizations committed to ending the stigma associated with mental illness and substance use disorders so everyone feels supported and able to access the services they need. We believe that by joining together and pooling resources we can have a greater impact.

The #StigmaFreeCLE campaign officially launched in May for Mental Health Month with shared resources throughout the rest of the year. We’ll be sharing messaging about ways each of us can help support each other and end stigma in our community. Local organizations or individuals interested in participating can follow #StigmaFreeCLE on social media, share this important messaging, and help us create a #StigmaFreeCLE together! Learn more at [StigmaFreeCLE.com](https://StigmaFreeCLE.com).

## 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.



## Learn About Branches Real Estate

You may be wondering about Ohio's first nonprofit real estate company, Branches Real Estate, and why our name is Branches Real Estate. We wanted to create a name and logo that allows us to tell our story.

People may focus on the parts of trees that they can see, but the real importance is what lies beneath – the roots. One of the most critical roles roots play is anchoring the tree. A good, healthy, and well-developed root system will anchor a tree for many years. [Learn more.](#)

WHY DO WE CALL OURSELVES BRANCHES?



**ROOTS:**  
Represents the community and people who are the anchors of all that we do.

**TRUNK:**  
Serves as the bridge providing access to other resources through ESOP, Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging and our collaborating partners.

**BRANCHES:**  
Acts as the canopy and shelter; Branches Real Estate helps make the dream of homeownership available and sustainable to more members of our communities.

## ESOP Receives Grant from the Cleveland Foundation Rapid Response Fund

Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People (ESOP), a subsidiary of Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging, received \$100,000 from the Cleveland Foundation's Greater Cleveland COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund to support the continuation of services including housing stability, direct aid, rental and financial assistance support for vulnerable populations in Cuyahoga County.



## Summerlicious Tickets are on Sale Now!

Join Master Chef Mario Reyes of [TRIO Community Meals](#) on **Friday, July 23rd from 6:00—7:30 p.m.** Chef Mario will virtually share his culinary expertise from Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging Headquarters and guide you in preparing wonderful summer dishes along with wine pairings.

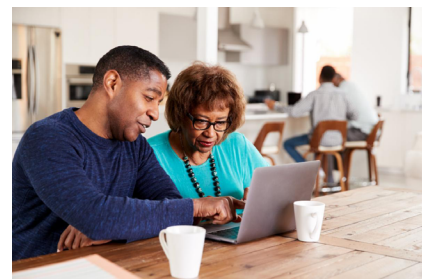
Let's negate the wait. Currently, the Rose Centers for Aging Well have 191 older adults on a waitlist in need of a daily home-delivered meal. Proceeds will benefit the Rose Centers for Aging Well and support the work of our team to give older adults daily, nutritious meals.

Ticket sales are coming soon. You can support Summerlicious today by purchasing a ticket, sponsorship or ad. Our unique sponsorship opportunities allow you to market your brand to a diverse audience. For questions about sponsorship or advertising, contact Jen Salkin at 216.373.1688 or [jsalkin@benrose.org](mailto:jsalkin@benrose.org). More information at [benrose.org/-/summerlicious2021](https://benrose.org/-/summerlicious2021).

## 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 [aging challenges for older adults in the LGBT+ Community](#), [discussing uncomfortable topic with a doctor](#), and [what to do if your loved one is resistant to home health care](#).

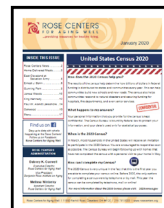


## Make a Gift

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.](#)

## 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

### Ohio Collaborative Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Project Summit

[Presented by Northeast Ohio Medical University and the Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program.](#) June 2, 9:00 AM

### Challenges of Aging for the LGBTQ Community

[Virtual program for caregivers.](#) June 2, 1:00 PM

### Second Wednesdays

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

### Homebuyer Education

[Learn the important basics of the homebuying process.](#) June 21—24, 6:00 PM

### Senior Financial Education Workshops

[Virtual workshops to help older adults take charge of their finances.](#)

Every other week beginning at 10:00 AM.



## Volunteers Urgently Needed

Volunteers are urgently needed to assist with our growing meal delivery program. We are in need of volunteers willing to deliver meals in their own vehicles, Monday—Friday from 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. For more information and volunteer sign-up, visit [www.benrose.org/volunteer](http://www.benrose.org/volunteer).



## Amazon Smile

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



## Staff Notes

**Orion Bell**, President & CEO, and **Sonya Edwards**, Executive Director and Broker of Branches Real Estate were interviewed for an article in Next Avenue titled [Successful Aging in Place Doesn't 'Just Happen.'](#)

**Farida Ejza, PhD**, Senior Research Scientist, was interviewed for an article in Next Avenue on [The Hidden Dangers of Self-Neglect in Older Adults](#).

**Lisa Weitzman, MSSA, LISW-S, ASW-G, C-ASWCM**, WeCare Administrator and Manager of Business Development presented *Caregiving During COVID* for the PNG Senior Networking Group.

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

[Do I Need to Step Back from Caregiving?](#) by **Julie Hayes**

[How to Talk to Your Loved One About Hiring In-Home Care](#) by **Lauri Scharf**