



Kethley House

Benjamin Rose today!

HELPING PEOPLE AGE SUCCESSFULLY

Vol. 5, No. 2

From the Desk of Richard Browdie *Meeting Challenges Now and in the Future*



Richard Browdie

Benjamin Rose has experienced a host of changes over the last several months and is positioning itself to meet future challenges in a positive, proactive way.

The difficult but necessary process of ending nursing home operations at Kethley House in February and redirecting resources to Benjamin Rose's other activities, such as community services, home care, and applied research is beginning to happen. As mentioned in the last issue of this newsletter, a portion of Kethley House will be leased to Kindred Healthcare for use as a long-term acute care hospital. The rest of the building will house Benjamin Rose's administrative, research, and community service operations, which are currently located downtown and in two separate east side locations. The architectural firm, Herman Gibans Fodor, has been contracted to oversee renovations of the building, which should be completed in time for a Fall 2006 move. In the meantime, a "Coming Together" committee has formed to help ease the transition for employees as they move to a new space.

Benjamin Rose has sought input from employees, funders, friends, and clients to identify goals and objectives and the means to achieve them.

While the organization consolidates many of its operations on Cleveland's east side, its presence has also expanded to the west side with the opening of a Benjamin Rose Home Care office at Rockport. Our visibility as an informed advocate in Cleveland and around the country will get a push from being asked to testify at the first hearing on the Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act in Washington, DC and the hearing on Long Term Care of the U.S. Medicaid Commission in Dallas, TX.

To help plan for future change in a focused manner, Benjamin Rose is in the process of creating and implementing a three-year

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Benjamin Rose 2006 Annual Meeting

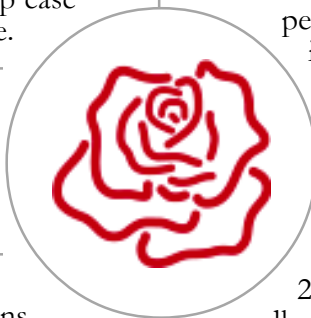
Benjamin Rose will host its first-ever public Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 24. During the meeting, which will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Myers University Club, the 2005 Annual Report will be introduced along with an outline of our plans for this year and the future.



John Rother

John Rother, Policy and Strategy Director for AARP, will be the guest speaker. Mr. Rother is a respected authority on a wide range of aging issues including Social Security, pensions, Medicare, health insurance, Medicaid, long-term care, older workers and consumer protection.

Invitations to this event will be mailed in the coming weeks. If you would like to attend, call 216.373.1607 or e-mail dknoop@benrose.org.



Save the date

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, September 27, when Jacqueline Marcell, author of *Elder Rage, or Take My Father... Please! How to Survive Caring for Aging Parents*, will be our guest speaker for a fall fund/"friend-raising" event. The event will be at noon at Windows on the River.

Research Volunteers Needed for New MBRI Project

Many of the projects conducted at Benjamin Rose's Margaret Blenkner Research Institute (MBRI) would not be possible without the generous help of volunteer research participants. We greatly appreciate these individuals who are curious about our research and take the time to share their thoughts, opinions and experiences.

If you've ever wanted to participate, now is your chance!

The MBRI recently received a grant from The Retirement Research Foundation titled, "Enhancing the Role of Older Adults in Research and Care Planning."

Approximately 300 adults (age 60 and over) throughout Northeast Ohio will be interviewed for this project. Anyone aged 60 or older is eligible to participate, regardless of physical health or memory condition. Information from the interviews will help us learn more about communication and health care decision making for older adults.

Participation will involve two in-person interviews (20-30 minutes each) conducted approximately one week apart. Everyone who completes both interviews will be sent a check for \$25. At the end of the project, all participants will receive a report of study findings.

For more information, call 216.373.1696 or e-mail jujohnson@benrose.org.

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Browdie (continued from front)



Nichol Higdon

strategic development design. With help from consulting firm Ogden Post, the organization has sought input from employees, funders, friends, and clients to identify goals and objectives, and the means to achieve them.

Ultimately, future directions will be determined by the Benjamin Rose Board of Directors, which has experienced its own changes over the past few months. The Board welcomed five new members recently: Anne M. Feleppelle, Senior Vice President - Government Relations for KeyBank; Nichol D. Higdon, Human Resources Manager for Dix & Eaton; Janet M. Hildebrandt, who oversees marketing, leasing, and resident services for Westwood Place, Strongsville; Denise M. Kresevic, PhD, a Nurse Researcher and Geriatric Nurse Practitioner at Louis Stokes VA Medical Center; and Cheryl P. McCahon, PhD, RN, Associate Professor of Nursing at Cleveland State University.

Coordinating Services

Most people who need ongoing help because of chronic disabilities have difficulties finding and accessing home- and community-based services. A major reason is difficulty getting information about what help is available, from where, how much it will cost, and what programs they qualify for. Countless phone calls, waiting lists, and other barriers result in frustration and often doing without needed help.

Since 2001 Benjamin Rose has worked with other Cuyahoga County agencies to address the problems of fragmented health and social services. The agencies also are collaborating with the State of Ohio's Department of Jobs and Family Services and the Department on Aging.

*The vision is that the county's ADRN will result in
a seamless experience for consumers.*

The collaboration has paid off with Cuyahoga County being selected to establish an Aging and Disability Resource Network (ADRN). The Ohio Department on Aging was awarded a three-year planning grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Administration on Aging to begin the project this year. As the first one in Ohio, the network will serve as the prototype for others throughout the state. The vision is that the county's ADRN will result in a seamless experience for consumers who seek access to long-term-care services as well as housing, transportation, employment, and volunteer opportunities. One phone call will connect consumers to the information they require, benefits and eligibility screening, care planning, and access to services.

Benjamin Rose will conduct the evaluation of the county's ADRN, investigating questions such as how satisfied consumers are with the ADRN's services, if it cuts down the wait from service application to service delivery, and how streamlined the process for obtaining services has become for consumers.

Dr. Linda Noelker, Senior Vice President at Benjamin Rose, who is leading the evaluation, notes, "Getting an ADRN established in Cuyahoga County will take considerable work but it will be well worth the investment if consumers get the services they need more easily without encountering the roadblocks that currently exist."

Thank You for Your Generous Support!

Every gift – whether unrestricted, restricted, or made in memory or tribute – supports Benjamin Rose’s efforts to deliver quality services to greater Cleveland’s elderly population. We extend our sincere appreciation to the following donors for their gifts received from December 1, 2005 through February 28, 2006.

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Home Care Program Welcomes New Director



Cynthia O'Connell, RN, BSN, has joined the Benjamin Rose team as Director of the Home Care Program in the Community/In-Home Services division. She will oversee operations of the program, including planning, service delivery, administration, care quality, and evaluation.

Before coming to Benjamin Rose, Ms. O'Connell was a Quality Improvement Project Leader with Ohio KePRO, the state's Medicare-contracted quality improvement organization, where she served as a consultant to home care providers across the state.

Ms. O'Connell brings extensive experience in home care to her role at Benjamin Rose, including agency administration, clinical staff supervision, quality assurance, case management, discharge planning, staff evaluation, and development of policies and procedures.



Benjamin Rose's Home Care Program expanded earlier this year with the opening of a west side office at Rockport.

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