From the desk of President & CEO Orion Bell

It’s February

February doesn’t get much respect. Valentine’s Day provides a flash of red roses and foil-wrapped chocolate, but mostly what is written and said about February is that we want it to be over.

Even in the dead of winter, new things are happening at Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging. Elsewhere in this newsletter you can read more about the launch of LIFEPOP, a partnership between BRIA’s ESOP and MetroHealth. We also celebrate the public launch of Best Practice Caregiving and the effort to raise awareness and increase access to proven caregiver support programs. February at Benjamin Rose is a time to celebrate new ideas, new programs, and new partnerships. Your involvement helps make all that possible. So, “Happy Februa!” and thank you for your support. Read more at benrose.org/news.

LIFEPOP Program Helps Metro Patients Improve Their Financial Health

Benjamin Rose subsidiary Empowering and Strengthening Ohio’s People (ESOP) and The MetroHealth System are partnering on a program to assist patients in their return to the community by helping them improve their financial health.

LIFEPOP, the Linking Financial Empowerment to Patient Outcomes Project, is an innovative Medical-Financial Partnership that embeds ESOP’s financial coaches at MetroHealth’s main campus and Old Brooklyn locations. The goal of the program is to positively impact the Social Determinants of Health for older adults, including their financial and housing stability. Research on the Social Determinants of Health has found that 40% of health outcomes are related to zip code rather than genetic code. LIFEPOP is funded by The Cleveland Foundation and The Nord Family Foundation. Read more at benrose.org/news.

Valentine’s Tribute

Looking for a unique and meaningful gift this Valentine’s Day? Consider making a tribute donation to Benjamin Rose in honor of your loved one. Your gift will have a positive impact on our work, and we’ll send a trunk full of love in grateful recognition. Make a tribute gift at benrose.org/donate.

Issue 33: Health and Human Services Levy

On March 17, Cuyahoga County voters will be asked to support the Health and Human Services levy, Issue 33. Every year, more than 400,000 people from more than 200,000 families access Cuyahoga County’s health and human services system. The county’s financial support for these services comes primarily from two countywide health and human services property tax levies.

Issue 33 is a replacement levy of 4.7 mills. Under Issue 33, property owners would pay an additional $41 a year for every $100,000 in property value—a little less than $3.50 per month.
‘Second Wednesdays’ with Benjamin Rose

Join us the second Wednesday of every month for breakfast from 8:00 - 9:00 AM to learn more about Benjamin Rose and its subsidiaries from President & CEO Orion Bell. Each month will provide an overview of the different programs and services of Benjamin Rose and how they meet the ever-changing needs of older adults and caregivers. Second Wednesdays are free to attend and all are welcome! Bring a friend! For more information, visit benrose.org or call 216.373.1688.

U.S. Census: Be Counted!

April 1, 2020 is Census Day. That’s the day Americans will take part in the decennial national headcount. It’s important to participate in the Census to ensure proper representation in the U.S. House of Representatives and adequate funding and support for federal programs. Be aware, however, that there are scammers who will take advantage of this opportunity to try to steal personal information. Scammers may pose as Census takers and contact people by phone, email, regular mail or home visit, or direct them to phony websites, seeking personal and financial information.

According the Census Bureau, legitimate Census takers will never ask for:

- your full Social Security number
- money or donations
- anything on behalf of a political party
- your full bank or credit card account numbers
- your mother’s maiden name

If you suspect a Census-related scam, contact the regional office in your state. Visit census.gov for information.

Brunch for Charity at Lago

Support the Rose Centers for Aging Well by having brunch at Lago East Bank. Join us for brunch from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Sunday, February 23 and a portion of your purchase will benefit the Rose Centers. Lago is located at 1091 W. 10th Street, Cleveland OH 44113, under the Aloft Hotel on the East Bank of the Flats.

Staff Notes

David M. Bass, PhD, Senior Vice President for Research, presented on evidence-based dementia care programs and the Best Practice Caregiving (BPC) online database in an ACL-sponsored webinar in January, as part of National Alzheimer’s and Dementia Resource Center webinar series and a BPC walkthrough with project partners, Family Caregiver Alliance and the John A. Hartford Foundation.

Behavioral Health Services Associate Director Tamar Cooper and Social Worker/Group Facilitator Kerstin Yoder presented on Social Isolation and the Aging Adult: Surviving the Holidays for Impact Solutions in December. Yoder also presented on Depression and the Holidays to residents at the Westerly Apartments in Lakewood in December.

ESOP Financial Empowerment coaches Keith Davis, Robert King, Rachel Slomovitz and Cynthia Walker were interviewed for a segment on Creating Financial Wellness Goals You Can Stick To, which aired on Spectrum News 1 on January 15.

Sonya Edwards, Director of Financial Counseling and Real Estate Services for ESOP, was interviewed for an article titled “Plan to Get Your Finances in Order.” The article was published in Northeast Ohio Boomer and Beyond magazine in January. In the same issue, Melissa Winberry, Assistant Director of Rose Centers for Aging Well, was interviewed an article titled “Don’t Just Live Longer. Live Better.”

Benjamin Rose staff continue to provide content for the faith-based online publication Guideposts. Recent articles include:

Where to Turn for Support After a Loved One’s Death, by Sarah Nicolay

9 Tips to Improve Communication with Someone Who Has Dementia by Julie Hayes