

From the desk of President & CEO Orion Bell

## Health and Human Services Levy

This March, the health and wellness of Cuyahoga County is on the ballot. Issue 26, which will be brought to voters in the coming election, is a renewal levy that will maintain funding for critical Health and Human Services. The levy provides about half of Cuyahoga County's entire Health and Human Services budget. Those funds help keep kids safe, provide residents with medical care and offer home and community-based assistance to older adults.

Benjamin Rose relies on funding from the levy to support a variety of our programs, including home meal delivery, activities at the Rose Centers, counseling and support services, transportation and more. The levy is vital to many of our community partners as well, including the ADAMHS Board, Cuyahoga County Division of Adult and Senior Services (DSAS), the Greater Cleveland Foodbank and MetroHealth, to name a few. We are part of a broad network of local charities, public agencies and volunteer groups who help promote the health, wellness and dignity of our neighbors, across the lifespan. [Read the full blog.](#)



## There's Still Time to Get Your Tickets to Winterlicious

Winterlicious is back again to spice up a dreary winter night! Master Chef Mario Reyes of TRIO Community Meals is hosting an exclusive Cooking Class and Tasting at Benjamin Rose Headquarters on **Thursday, February 29 from 6 – 9 p.m.** This in-person event allows you to observe Chef Mario as he cooks five different courses for you. Participants receive recipes for all dishes served, tasting portions, wine pairings and the opportunity to engage with and ask Chef Mario cooking questions. A few tickets still remain, so get yours before they're gone! [Get your tickets!](#)

## The More You Know: Hoarding

Hoarding disorder is a mental health condition in which people have a strong need to save a large number of items and experience distress when attempting to get rid of them. It is estimated that around 2-to-6% of the population suffers from this disorder.

Hoarding affects not only the person doing the hoarding, but also their family, the people who love them, those who live around them, and in some cases the safety and well-being of the community at large.

If you, a family member or someone you are providing care to may be experiencing a hoarding disorder, join us for a FREE one-hour, virtual Q & A session with professionals who will explain hoarding disorder and provide useful information.

The next session is Wednesday, April 10 at noon. [Register now!](#)



## Storm Clouds or Calm Seas? The Outlook of Aging Policies for 2024

Join us on Thursday, February 29 as Bob Blancato, President of Matz, Blancato, and Associates and the National Coordinator of the Elder Justice Coalition leads a discussion on what we can anticipate from federal aging policies in 2024. Topics will include the renewal of the Older Americans Act, health care reform and how aging policies will impact our respective states and communities. [Register now!](#)



## Join us to Learn More About Benjamin Rose

Please join us virtually from 9 to 10 a.m. EST on **Wednesday, March 13** for the next installment of Second Wednesdays with Benjamin Rose. Orion Bell, president and CEO, will offer an overview of the programs and services provided by Benjamin Rose. Second Wednesdays provide an excellent opportunity to learn more about our organization and how you can engage with our work. [Register now!](#)

## Free Income Tax Preparation

Need help filing your taxes? We can help you get your refund—usually in two weeks—through our drive-up tax service at our headquarters at Benjamin Rose. You can stay in your car while our IRS-certified volunteer tax preparers perform this valuable service for you. Se habla español.

Our tax site is now open. [Visit our website for the full schedule.](#)

Don't miss the PNC Mobile Banking Unit which will be onsite every other Tuesday during tax season.



## Learn to Identify and Report Adult Maltreatment

As many states expand the scope of professionals who are required by law to report potential instances of adult abuse, neglect and exploitation, two online courses from Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging provide mandated reporters with the consistent, effective and practical training they need.

These self-guided, interactive modules allow participants to understand the various types of abuse, recognize potential cases of adult maltreatment, and understand how and when to report them to the proper authorities.

The two modules take about 60 minutes each to complete and are very affordably priced to allow access to a wide range of professionals. *The courses are currently specific to the State of Ohio, but can be easily modified to accommodate the regulations and reporting structures of other states.* [Learn more.](#)



## Homebuyer Education is Back!

Are you interested in buying a home but not sure where to start? Our FREE HUD-approved homebuyer education class can teach you the important basics of the home buying process. We will provide you with the knowledge you'll need to secure an affordable mortgage and buy the right house for you.

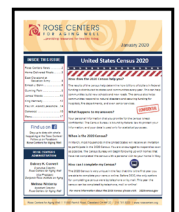
This course is a four-part series. This registration is for the following days, from 6-8 p.m. on Zoom: March 25 (Mon), March 26 (Tues), March 27 (Weds) and March 28 (Thurs).

## 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. [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).



## Staff Notes

**Orion Bell**, president & CEO, was interviewed on [New Day Cleveland](#) recently to discuss the many programs and services offered by Benjamin Rose.

