SUMMERTIME ON THE EASTSIDE
Community Resource Fairs and the Glenville Festival

Glenville Senior Appreciation Day at Sam Miller Park was totally groovy! The 70s-themed party featured live music, free BBQ, and raffle giveaways. Around 250 seniors from across Cleveland’s eastside visited resource booths, danced, and enjoyed burgers, hot dogs, ribs, and baked beans from Tally’s Touch. Raffle prizes were awarded throughout the event and included winnings such as Dave’s Market gift cards and Cleveland Guardians tickets. The residents enjoyed live music from Blue Dazz and Councilman Conwell and the Footprints and boogied the afternoon away!

Senior Appreciation Day was one event that was a part of two different series of summer events produced by Famicos: the Summer Community Resource Fairs and the Glenville Festival Summer Series. The Glenville Festival Series is sponsored by the Ward 10 Office and Ward 10 Councilman Anthony Hairston. Senior Appreciation Day was the first of three events making up the Glenville Festival. The second event is Glenville Live, happening Saturday July 30 again at Sam Miller Park. This event will feature live music from the Unit Band and Hubbs Groove, a DJ Battle, and close with a fireworks finale at dusk. The third and final event in the series is for kids of all ages: the Back 2 School Bash on Saturday August 27 at Sam Miller Park. Bring the whole family for fun, food, and school supplies!
Dear friends,

Spring has whipped by and long summer days are upon us. Spring for Famicos was filled with our new Digital Equity program, our ongoing Health Equity programs, and the announcement of four new real estate developments: two in Glenville and two in Hough (see pgs 4-5).

Funding from Cuyahoga County and NeighborWorks America is supporting our efforts to prevent eviction and cultivate home ownership (generational wealth) through services such as financial counseling offered by our Homeownership Resource Center (HRC). Our work funded by the Center for Disease Control Foundation and the US Department of Agriculture among others, continues to build healthy communities through the Michael R White Community Garden, the Gateway105 Farmer’s Market, and numerous Community Resource Fairs and Vaccine Clinics. While Famicos is also experiencing “the great resignation” affecting all companies in this country, we are still ramping up our summer programs, particularly in our Community Building & Engagement department. Famicos is always looking for talented people, passionate about serving the low-income community. Please check our website or Indeed for current open positions.

We wish you a safe and joyful summer and, as always, we thank you for your partnership and support.

In service,
John O. Anoliefo, Executive Director
Famicos has been hosting a series of seven Community Resource Fairs throughout Glenville and St Clair-Superior over the summer months. Resource Fairs have been held at the Glenville McDonald’s, the St Clair-Superior McDonalds, Glen Village, the Northeast Ohio Recovery Association (NORA), Sam Miller Park, and Mary Bethune School. Each Resource Fair has had about 30 different resource tables sharing information about such services as financial literacy, tax return preparation, legal records expungement, lead hazard reduction, digital literacy, child literacy, youth employment and more. Most Resource Fairs also offered COVID-19 vaccines.

Famicos has received a second year of funding from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Foundation for its Partnering for Vaccine Equity grant. Famicos is one of 92 community-based organizations nationwide to be granted a second year of funding for the program. “We thank you very much for your ongoing support of getting our communities vaccinated against COVID-19,” said Famicos Executive Director John Anoliefo to Laura Durda, local Program Officer for the CDC Foundation. The two met at a Community Resource Fair and Vaccine Clinic, held at Glen Village in April. Two other Ohio organizations to receive the same grant were also at the event: Asian Services in Action and the Minority Organ and Tissue Transplant Education Program (MOTTEP). Both organizations have been collaborating with Famicos on the vaccine initiative: ASIA to translate educational materials into Chinese and MOTTEP to be present at vaccine clinics, answering any questions residents have. At the same event, MOTTEP awarded Famicos with their Community Partner Award for the ongoing collaboration. So far in 2022, Famicos has helped 327 Asians and African Americans in Greater Cleveland to get their COVID vaccines.
REAL ESTATE SPOTLIGHT
New Developments Coming to Glenville & Hough

A rendering of Gold Coast Lofts, new market-rate housing from Famicos on the corner of E 105th St and Superior Ave, coming in 2023. Rendering created by RDL Architects for Famicos Foundation, 2022.

GLENVILLE

Gold Coast Lofts will be a four-story mixed-use building at the corner of Superior Ave and East 105th Street (10502 Superior Ave). The project will have commercial space on the first floor with 69 multifamily apartment units above. The first floor will host a full-service community health clinic by MetroHealth. The building’s amenities include a lounge, fitness center and bike storage for residents. Currently vacant lots, this new development will help activate the busy intersection and bring more families into the area.

St Marks Family Center is a different type of development project. Instead of constructing a new building, Famicos Foundation is working to restore historic St. Mark’s Presbyterian Church. The impressive structure is a highlight of the East Blvd Historic District, located next to the Cleveland Public Library’s Langston Hughes Branch. Originally built in 1911, St. Mark’s was a fixture in Cleveland’s Civil Rights Movement. By restoring this building to its former glory, Famicos will celebrate Glenville’s rich history and transform a previously vacant building into a community asset. Famicos is honored to have received a Neighborhood Promise grant from Republic Services Charitable Foundation to support the stabilization and preservation of St Mark’s and the transformation of this important historic building into a community center and event and performance space for Glenville Residents.
**HOUGH**

**Chester75** will be located at the corner of Chester Ave and E 75th Street (1914 East 75th St). This proposed 57-unit apartment building is intended to provide workforce housing for nearby large employers like Cleveland Clinic, University Hospital, VA Hospital, Case Western Reserve University. The building will have a mix of studio, 1-bedroom, and 2-bedroom apartment units. This location was intentionally picked to spark connection across Chester Ave, which currently cuts through the Hough neighborhood. The project site is located in one of Cleveland’s Opportunity Zones, targeted in and around newly proposed development in the Health Tech Corridor.

**Henrietta Homes** is a proposed collection of 40 single-family lease-purchase houses that will be located in Hough, all within walking distance of Historic League Park. Each of the houses will have three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a single garage. Four units will be ADA-compliant (single-story) and there will be one sensory unit. These houses will be leased to low-income families for 16 years, then sold to those same families. Henrietta Homes is named after Famicos’ foundress Sr Henrietta Gorris CSA, who lived and started the “Family Cooperators” (later to become Famicos) on Quimby Ave.

Contact Tellewanda Moore at 216-791-7476 ext. 275 or tmoore@famicos.org for more information.
PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Resident Services for Seniors

MOTHER’S DAY “DAY SPA”
written by UT Resident Patricia Henderson-Elam

The Moms of the Famicos University Towers Apartments (UT), located in beautiful, cultural University Circle, were excited to participate in a Mother’s Day Recognition Spa Event. In the coolness of the atmosphere, our anticipation level was on high alert because I mean, who does not like receiving recognition for being a great mom all year long!

We welcomed our guest Mrs. Gloria A. Greer-Brooks, Senior Sales Director of Mary Kay Cosmetics. Each of the Moms received a day spa package. Mrs Brooks described how nourishing and soothing the products would be when applied, especially good for our hands and feet and soothing arthritis discomforts. The packages contained mint bliss energizing lotion for the feet and legs, hydrating lotion for the body, shea butter balm, and were topped off with colorful Happy Mother’s Day, “I Love You” bookmarks.

We played a fun game to guess how many women live in our building. The majority of us had no clue! However, one of our moms gave the correct answer and received special gift. A huge “thank you” to Ms. Lovina Joseph, who is our energetic, loving and enthusiastic Social Services Coordinator at UT. As we progress in our senior years, it is encouraging to know there are yet dedicated and enthusiastic leadership who care. Ms. Joseph, we appreciate all you do for us.

COMPUTER DISTRIBUTION & TUTORING

Senior and disabled residents of Famicos apartments received desktop and laptop computers and hotspots from PCs for People, Jump Start, Key Bank, and Famicos during NeighborWorks Week and Key Bank Neighbors Make a Difference Day in June. 190 seniors and disabled residents of 7 different buildings received new computers as part of Famicos’ Digital Inclusion effort, spearheaded by Digital Inclusion Community Engagement Specialist Shabreese Murphy. In addition to several Digital Ambassadors, Shabreese has hired two youth for the summer as a part of Youth Opportunities Unlimited summer youth employment program. Throughout the summer, 14 year old Valencia and 16 year old Dalano will be providing in-home tech support and training for seniors in Famicos buildings. They will also be doing one on one tutoring in Famicos computer labs.

The computer distributions and one-on-one tutoring are part of a larger Digital Inclusion initiative at Famicos, also including group classes for seniors, a help line, high-speed internet bill reduction through Affordable Connectivity Program registration, and the Neighbor to Neighbor program. Neighbor to Neighbor, a program sponsored by Cleveland Neighborhood Progress, Rocket Mortgage, and the Cleveland Foundation is amassing data on Cleveland’s digital divide through door-to-door resident surveys. Residents of Glenville and Hough can expect to see Famicos Ambassadors come to their door sometime this summer. Data will be used to inform funding strategies to overcome the digital divide in Cleveland.
WOMEN WHO DREAM BIG
Glen Village’s newest entrepreneurs have big plans

iSpecz Eyewear may be the newest business in the Glen Village incubator space (1400 E 105th St), but owner Olympia Robinson has been immersed in eyecare for close to two decades. As an optician, Olympia’s passion is to design, fit, and distribute corrective lenses. With a focus on specialized, personable care and education, Olympia establishes meaningful connections and inspires clients of all ages and backgrounds. A native of East Cleveland, she attributes her wide range of clientele to the power of word of mouth and reputation. Along with local eyecare services, iSpecz provides unique and designer frames. Unlike other small businesses which suffered during the pandemic, iSpecz saw tremendous growth. Stuck inside, many people found themselves using their reading glasses more often. “Lots of people were breaking their glasses while they were quarantined,” Olympia shares with a laugh, “especially if they had kids!” This momentum has followed iSpecz into 2022 and Olympia’s goals have expanded with her business. Investing in new optical technology, Olympia hopes to set up shop in a larger space so that she can cut prescription lenses on site as well as repair and fit frames with a faster turnover rate.

House of B Jewels was founded in 2014, the result of owner Brittany Leigh’s efforts to balance a successful creative business with the responsibilities of a new mother. Inspired by her parents who sold jewelry door to door when she was a child, Brittany tapped into her entrepreneurial spirit and determination. As a new Black woman business owner, Brittany’s biggest obstacle was a lack of connections and resources; this wasn’t a setback for long. In a short time, Brittany had earned her gemology certificate, built an online store, and created her first custom piece, the Lord and Savior, a necklace initially designed to fit her infant daughter. She got to work, promoting her glittering creations at vendor events along with the help of popular social media influencers. In 2020, House of B Jewels opened its first physical store in Glen Village. Brittany found herself overwhelmed with a tidal wave of new clients and a brand new storefront to run. “The world shut down and everyone started shopping,” she half-jokingly recalls. A monumental shift shaped by online consumers had exponentially increased her sales. Brittany was literally putting thousands of pieces together in her living room and shipping out orders in the middle of the night. Today, Brittany’s goals for House of B Jewels have evolved beyond those of a budding side hustle. She hopes to open at least three more stores, allowing Brittany more creative freedom to conceptualize and create original, fine gold pieces.

iSpeczeyewear.com
houseofbjewels.com

Olympia Robinson, owner of iSpecz Eyewear, Glen Village’s newest store.

Brittany Leigh, CEO and owner of House of Jewels.
AVAILABLE TO RENT

**THE MADISON**

$1160/month
1 bedroom, 1 bathroom

Open floor plan, huge kitchen, granite counters with large island, plank flooring throughout, in-suite washer & dryer, stainless steel appliances, walk-in shower, on-site assigned parking. Close to UH, CWRU, VA, and Cleveland Clinic. Easy access to highways and downtown.

FOR SINGLES/COUPLES

1464 E 105th St, Cleveland

famicos.org/madison

FOR SENIORS & DISABLED

**NOTRE DAME APARTMENTS**

1325 Ansel Rd, Cleveland

Senior adult (62+) and disability (55+) independent living. ADA-compliant units. Onsite parking & controlled access. Outdoor courtyard, community room, computer room, and laundry all onsite. Group activities & transportation offered. Close to VA Hospital, medical center, and Rockefeller Park.

**UNIVERSITY TOWER APARTMENTS**

1575 East Blvd, Cleveland

FOR FAMILIES

**PARK VILLAGE APARTMENTS**

9221 Hough Ave, Cleveland

Onsite laundry and parking, security, dishwashers, community room, outdoor play area, close to medical center. HUD housing, social services assistance.

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famicos.org/madison

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