

THE FOUNDATION

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FAMICOS FOUNDATION



CHANGE FROM WITHIN

Residents Graduate from Leadership Training

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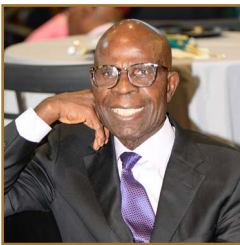


Lto R: UT residents Yolanda Wilson and Linda Michael, CB&E Director Erica Burnett, Doan resident Erica Wyse, UT resident Patricia Elam, and Social Services Coordinator Lovina Joseph (Dec 2022).

Doan Classroom Apartment resident Erica Wyse and **University Towers Apartments** residents Patricia Elam, Linda Michael, and Yolanda Wilson recently graduated from the Building Leaders, Building Communities (BLBC) training program, sponsored by **NeighborWorks America**. BLBC was established to give residents the skills to become leaders in impacting lasting change in the communities they live in. The prestigious program is by invitation-only and this 2022 cohort is the third time Famicos has been invited to participate. The cohort was lead by Famicos staff using the BLBC curriculum.

Participants were challenged to rethink their perceptions of what makes an effective, committed leader and what being in a leadership role really entails. While on this journey of becoming emerging leaders, the participants eagerly listened, learned, shared experiences and ideas and discussed pertinent issues that are affecting their communities. "We're very proud of our resident leaders," said Famicos Director of Community Building & Engagement Erica Burnett, "and we look forward to working with them on exciting new initiatives."

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Dear friends,

We often tell new employees that they will never be bored at Famicos Foundation...and that is because our organization never stops adapting, growing and responding to the varying needs of our residents. Even though we are sometimes known as a "housing organization", we respond first to the needs to people. For example, the pandemic made it blatantly clear that your zip code determines essential things like the speed of your internet or access to routine medical care or even access to healthy food. Our foundress Sr Henrietta Gorris started Famicos Foundation after she retired from a long career in hospital administration. She knew very well that housing, health and financial resiliency were inseparable challenges that needed to be tackled together, not separately.

In December, Famicos held a **Health, Housing, & Hiring Resource Fair**. We brought together 73 different community organizations for the event in Hough. As well as providing educational materials to residents, Famicos and our partners also offered practical services at the event including COVID vaccines, legal records expungement, financial counseling, and utility assistance. The event was very well received by residents and we've had many requests to keep bringing such resource fairs to the neighborhoods. Keep checking our website to find dates and locations for our next events.

Lastly, we are so grateful to our donors and partners for the generous donations of toys and turkeys for the holiday season. With your help, Famicos gave away 500 turkeys or hams and 4,000 grocery gift cards to needy families throughout Cleveland's eastside. We made sure 600 kids and tweens had gifts to open on Christmas morning. We extend a special thanks to **IHG Hotels & Resorts, Intercontinental Suites at Cleveland Clinic** for donating the proceeds of their Brunch with Santa to our Christmas Toy Drive.

We are grateful that you all share and support our vision of helping those most in need. We rely on your continued generosity to fund the 70 different social services that Famicos offers each year.

In service,
John O. Anoliefo, Executive Director

DID YOU KNOW?

Famicos accepts the following types of donations:

Checks, debit & credit cards
Apple Pay, Google Pay, and BitPay
Donor-Advised Funds
Cars & Furniture
Estates & Planned Giving



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Famicos Director of Community Building & Engagement Erica Burnett (L) and Lead Program Specialist Tellewanda Moore (R) light the Christmas Tree at the Intercontinental Suites IHG Hotel, Cleveland Clinic (Nov 2022).

SOCIAL DETERMINATES OF HEALTH

Hundreds Attend Health, Housing, & Hiring Fair



Over 70 community organizations joined Famicos for our Health, Housing & Hiring Resource Fair (Hough, December 2022).

Famicos' Health, Housing and Hiring resource fair was a great success! The fair held was on Saturday December 3, 2022 at the East Professional Center in Hough. Over 500 residents from across the county were provided with information and services from 73 community organizations, throughout each of the five social determinates of health: **Education, Financial Stability, Housing & Neighborhood, Quality Health Care, and Social Support**. As well as providing educational materials, the Resource Fair also provided several on-site services for residents. **Famicos CARES:LegalWorks** facilitated 40 legal expungement consultation sessions and our **Homeownership Resource Center (HRC)** provided financial coaching for 50 community members. Partner orgs **CHN Partners, Northeast Ohio Sewer District, and Dominon Energy** were accepting applications for utility assistance, while the **Cuyahoga County Public Health Department** provided COVID vaccines, and **Ohio Means Jobs** was taking applications for open positions.

The Health, Housing and Hiring Resource fair was planned with the intention of providing practical help for community members, both city- and county-wide. "We chose the date in December because we knew people who were struggling were going to need some practical

help coming into the holiday season," said HRC Manager Candice Wood. "We wanted a 'one-stop shop' where residents could come to one event and get many different kinds of information and assistance."

The Resource Fair was such a great gathering of community organizations, agencies and resources for community members that there have been requests from both advocates and residents alike about having more resource fairs like this one. If your organization would like to be included in Famicos' future resource fairs, drop us an email at helpwithhousing@famicos.org.

Ready for Tax season?

Famicos Foundation's Tax lab offers free tax preparation and financial coaching.

Call 216-791-6476 ext. 244 to book an appointment.



Refund

Direct deposit?
See instructions.

Amount

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

Digital Navigators help Bridge the Digital Divide

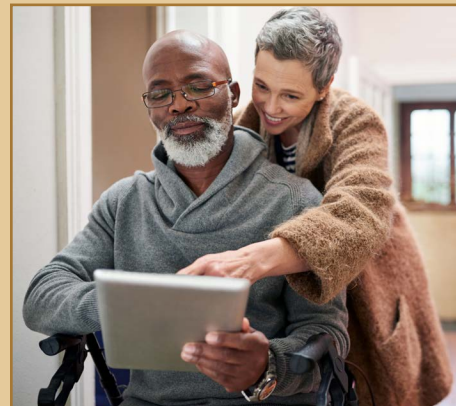


Digital Ambassador Pearline Richardson (L) joins Digital Inclusion Project Manager Kniel Christensen (R) in spearheading Famicos' outreach for the Affordable Connectivity Program.

If you've attended one of Famicos many community events last year, you have probably seen our Digital Ambassadors there. The Ambassadors serve as advocates for digital inclusion, traveling throughout the community providing a range of services meant to bridge the digital divide in Cleveland. The Ambassador program began last year through funding from the **Neighbor to Neighbor** program, an initiative sponsored by **Cleveland Neighborhood Progress, Cleveland Foundation, and Rocket Mortgage**. The goal of the pilot year of the program in 2022 was to survey community members to collect objective data on how comfortable residents were with internet and technology use and what sort of access issues they may be experiencing. Famicos, one of the first five organizations brought into this project, collected a total of 15,000 surveys in its first year. It was not surprising that the data collected continued to tell the story of a great digital divide in Cleveland, which really came to light in 2018 American Community Survey data. "The bad news is that we have not bridged the gap," said Famicos Neighbor to Neighbor Specialist Shabreese Murphy. "The good news is there are some new resources coming down from the federal government and from private funders which will give practical aid where that aid is needed."

The federal government's new **Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)** provides income-eligible households with a discount on broadband service and connected devices. "ACP is the HEAP of Internet, that's the easiest way to explain it." Through grant funding from the Cleveland Foundation, Famicos recently hired Digital Inclusion Project Manager Kniel Christensen to spearhead ACP outreach to the low income neighborhoods Famicos serves across Cuyahoga County. "The Neighbor to Neighbor program has been up and running for a while now but we are adding a pilot ACP connectivity program," said Christensen, "We are going to have a big push with ACP outreach letting the community know that this benefit is out there and helping those who are eligible to take advantage of it."

"We often find that people don't use these kinds of resources simply because they don't know about them," said Digital Ambassador Pearline Richardson. Famicos will be sending Digital Ambassadors out into the neighborhoods in the Spring to help residents sign up for the benefit. "Signing up is easy, but if you don't know about the program, how can you sign up for it?" Watch out for our Ambassadors on your street this Spring, or if you're ready to sign up for ACP now, call our **ACP Hotline at (216) 307-6990**.



STAY CONNECTED

You could qualify for \$30 off your monthly internet bill with the Affordable Connectivity Program benefit.

Find out if you qualify!

(216) 307-6990

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT:

Bringing preventative care to seniors

There are approximately 7,500 senior citizens living in affordable housing in the City of Cleveland. Zip codes in the City with higher poverty rates have poorer health outcomes, according to the 2019 Cuyahoga County Community Health Needs Assessment. Famicos and our partners are working together to change these outcomes. Through a \$200,000 **Ohio Health Improvement Zones** grant from the **Ohio Public Health Department** and a \$120,000 **Partnering for Vaccine Equity** grant from the **CDC Foundation**, Famicos has launched a major health strategy concentrating on Cleveland's eastside. "If we want to change outcomes, we need to change the way we deliver services," said Famicos Marketing Director Tara Mowery. "We can't do things the way we've always done them and then expect a different result. With these new grants, we're bringing preventative health care to the people who need it the most."

Through our pop-up vaccine clinics, Famicos has helped to vaccinate 550 people in 2022 and 175 people in 2023 already. Mobile vaccination clinics hosted by Famicos have offered community members at churches, schools, homeless shelters, and food pantries the chance to become vaccinated against viruses like COVID, pneumonia, influenza, monkeypox, and shingles. "For Seniors, who are the ones that need these vaccines the most, mobility and transportation are major barriers to getting such basic preventative care," said Shabreese Murphy, who is managing the health and digital equity initiatives at Famicos. "That's why we need to meet them where they're at."



CWRU School of Dentistry students provided oral screenings to senior residents at University Towers (January 2023).

Famicos plans to expand its health outreach next month to include: safe sleeping class for infants and expecting mothers, narcain trainings for opioid overdose, and a series of heart-healthy cooking classes during the month of February. "We must work together to fully address the goals and needs of the people that we serve in our community. All families—no matter who they are, where they live, or how much money they make—should have the resources they need to help their children grow up healthy." said Famicos Community Health Worker Annetta Watts.



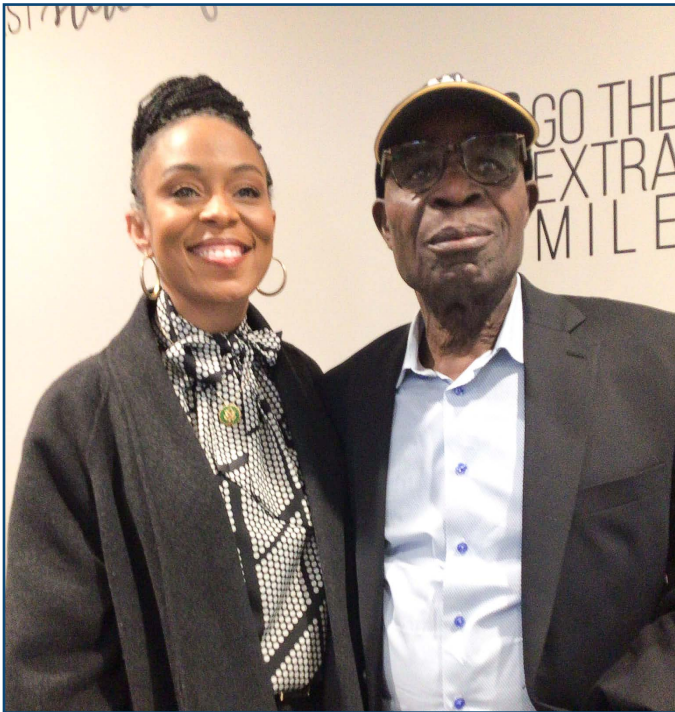
Famicos has again teamed up with longtime partner **Case Western Reserve University (CWRU)** to bring dental screenings to Famicos senior residents at University Towers in January. Residents received Oral Screenings, Denture Cleanings, and Dental Education.

Dr. Mahalaha, Director of the Geriatric Dental Program at CWRU School of Dentistry examines a resident at UT (January 2023).



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Major New Initiatives Coming for Minority Business Owners



US Representative Shontel Brown with John Anelifo, Executive Director of Famicos Foundation at Glen Village (January 2023).

Ohio Congresswoman Shontel Brown and US Secretary of Commerce Gina Rainmondo visited Glenville on January 18. The two met with small business owners and community members at **Glen Village** on E 105th St. During the visit, Rep. Brown announced a groundbreaking \$93 million that will be made available for minority-owned small businesses from the **Minority Development Business Agency (MBDA)**. This program marks the largest program of its kind in the history of the Commerce Department.

The new **MBDA Capital Readiness Program Grant Competition** is an incredible opportunity for minority-owned incubators, accelerators and other eligible organizations to jumpstart their businesses. MBDA plans to fund business proposals for up to \$3 million dollars for over four years. "It demonstrates the importance of Black businesses and it demonstrates the priority of this Administration to make sure that we are elevating Black businesses." It was no coincidence that Rep Brown chose to make the announcement in Cleveland at Glen Village, which is itself an incubator space for Black-owned businesses.

The first six businesses to open a space in Glen Village were selected by a pitch competition hosted by the **City of Cleveland** in 2019 when the building first opened. Three of the original six businesses still have locations in Glen Village, while the other three have moved on to larger retail spaces. Glen Village currently houses three restaurants, a jewelry shop, and a barbershop. You can read about Glen Village's newest business **Squash the Beef** on the following page.

Famicos is excited to assist small business owners and entrepreneurs in applying for this new opportunity or any of the City of Cleveland's opportunities for small businesses. To learn more about the MBDA Capital Readiness Program Grant Competition visit:

<https://www.mbda.gov/mbda-capital-readiness-program-grant-competition>

If you are a small business owner or entrepreneur who is in need of technical assistance with your business or you would like to explore options for opening a new business in one of Cleveland's historic eastside neighborhoods, please call Famicos' Business Development Specialist at (216) 791-6476.

Mission-Minded Women

an evening of networking for professional women

Wednesday March 8

6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Legacy Hall
6800 Lexington Ave, Hough



*Host for the evening:
Stephanie Howse, Ward 7 Councilwoman*

SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT:

Squash the Beef Makes their Mark in Cleveland

Squash The Beef Catering LLC was formed four years ago and is now one of the premier exclusively-vegan restaurants in Cleveland. Chef Kurtis Williams had the idea of opening a vegan restaurant after watching the Netflix Documentary *What the Health*. "We started in 2019. I told my partner I believe that this is what God wanted me to do because I had been debating it for a while and she was like 'I'm with you'," said Williams. Chef Williams and his partner Candice Joy Maiden began small by hosting pop-up shops during festivals and fairs across Cleveland, including VeganFest. The culinary duo then moved on to a food truck during the 2020 pandemic and found critical acclaim.

In December 2022, a spot in the business incubator space at **Glen Village** opened up and Williams and Maiden seized the opportunity. "We weren't planning to operate a fixed operation this year," said Maiden, "but then this amazing opportunity came our way and we couldn't turn it down." Since opening in January, it has already become one of Glen Village's most popular sites with their delicious, health-conscious menu. "The purpose of Glen Village is to provide space for Black small business owners to launch their business in a community where access to these types of establishments are not always available. We welcome the idea of providing plant-based food offerings in an area with limited offerings." Some popular Squash the Beef menu items include Fried Chik'n Breast, Vegan Comfort Rolls, Meatless Meatloaf, BBQ Jackfruit and Chef Williams' personal favorite, the Mushroom Onion burger w/ Bacun.



Mushroom Onion Burger with Bacun
(photo courtesy of Squash the Beef LLC).



Chef Kurtis Williams and Catering Director Candice Joy Maiden serve delicious vegan comfort food through their catering services and take out spot in Glen Village (1400 E 105 St, Cleveland, 44106, photo courtesy of Squash the Beef LLC).

Squash The Beef is beginning to have a strong social media following, specifically on Instagram as local social media influencers such as: LaRese Purnell, Stefan Johnson, Que B sure, and Craig Da Mack have all posted videos about the great experience and delicious food that Squash The Beef Catering LLC has to offer.

Squash The Beef
(216) 245-2128

Tuesdays 11:00am - 6:00pm
Wednesdays 11:00am - 3:00pm
Thursdays 11:00am - 3:00pm
Fridays 12:00pm - 3:00pm
Saturdays 12:00pm - 5:00pm

Closed Sundays and Mondays.
Online ordering available via Grubhub and Seamless.



Glen Village, 1400 E 105th St.

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

UNIVERSITY TOWER APARTMENTS



1575 East Blvd, 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.

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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FOUNDATION

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