Whether it’s the smell of a turkey roasting, or grandma’s pie, or your favorite cultural dish that your aunt makes, certain foods can take us back to our childhoods. We remember special meals, carefully prepared during the holidays, and we remember enjoying those meals as a family. Famicos means “families in cooperation” and our 50-year mission has been to give families the resources they need, not just to survive, but to thrive. That means going beyond housing as basic shelter to strengthening families in homes. This holiday season, Famicos, Councilpersons Basheer Jones (Ward 7), Kevin Conwell (Ward 9) and Anthony Hairston (Ward 10), and Nitram’s Frozen Foods, gave out frozen turkeys to 1300 families in need, across three neighborhoods. With the Councilpersons, we also gave out 2400 grocery store gift cards. We hope this gave families the chance to cook together, to enjoy a special meal together, and to enjoy some memorable family time this holiday season. The Cleveland Clinic and St Augustine Church gave out a further 400 turkey meals to Famicos residents. Through our partnership with Toys for Tots, we made sure 300 kids got gifts this Christmas. We held holiday parties in Glenville, Hough, St Clair-Superior, and in most of our apartment communities. In partnership with the Northern Ohio Recovery Association (NORA), the Greater Cleveland Foodbank, and the Ward 7 and 10 Offices, we were able to run six food pantry giveaways over the holiday season. We could think of no better way to end our 49th year of service to the people of Cleveland. As we begin our 50th year, our Golden Anniversary, we look forward to helping all families enjoy the peace, independence, and security that “home” brings.
FROM THE DIRECTOR’S DESK

Dear friends,

Famicos Foundation has reached half a century of service in Cleveland and has become the oldest CDC in the city. I sometimes wonder if our Foundress, Sister Henrietta Gorris, had any idea that what she started in Hough in those tumultuous times in the late-1960’s would still be going strong 50 years later. I suspect that she simply saw herself as a person who was going to help people, regardless of any “barriers” that may have stood in her way. In this Golden Anniversary year, I hope we can all see in Sr. Henrietta proof that one person can make a lasting difference.

Famicos Board President Laura Junglas and I (pictured above) are proud to announce a year of celebration for Famicos’ 50th Anniversary. This is a once-in-a-lifetime occasion. We’ll have events that celebrate our neighbors, our residents, our donors, our partners, and the history and culture of our neighborhoods. We’ll also be making a special appeal to our sponsors and donors this year, in celebration of 50 years of service and to strengthen us as we expand into our next 50 years of service. Please contact us for special memorial gift opportunities. We are also making a call for photos and stories of Sr Henrietta. We will be happy to scan your photos and return them to you. We’ll be presenting our collection toward the end of our anniversary year.

The Ohio NeighborWorks Coalition just released a study showing that Famicos Foundation generated a staggering $73.1 million of economic output in the state of Ohio in the past 5 years alone. We also created or sustained over 400 jobs in our local neighborhoods. We don’t just preach racial equity and diversity, we practice it every day. With your continued support and partnership, imagine what we can do in the next 50 years.

John O. Anoliefo, Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Laura Junglas, President
Peter Lee, Vice President
Rev. Robert Marva, Secretary
Ryan Siebel, Treasurer
Carol Brandt, SND
Christian Carson
Charles Hall
Randa Jackson
Keisha L. Johnson
Geoffrey Ledwidge
Christian F. Moratschek
Ron Shuck
Theresa Sutton
John J. Weiss
Joseph H. Weiss, Jr.
Joan Gallagher, CSA Trustee, Emeritus
Catherine Kasperski, Trustee, Emeritus
Emily Peck, Trustee, Emeritus
John O. Anoliefo, Executive Director

UPCOMING EVENTS

EITC AWARENESS DAYS
January 31 & February 1

HOME-BUYER EDUCATION CLASSES
Wednesdays February 5, 12, 19, 26
March 4, 11, 18, 25
April 8, 15, 22, 29

KURENTOVANJE CLEVELAND
February 16 - 22

FINANCIAL LITERACY CLASSES
Saturdays February 22, March 21, April 18

SUPER SATURDAYS
February 29 & March 21

CLEVELAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
March 25 - April 5

SPRING DONOR RECEPTION
Thursday April 16

Stay up to date on all our exciting events at famicos.org
Catch our latest news by following us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter...
you’ll find us @famicos
HOLIDAY GIVING

Community Engagement Spreads Holiday Cheer

Bernard Lindsey narrowly beats out Evelyn & Bevelyn Grimes to claim the “ugliest sweater” at the St. Clair - Superior Holiday Party.

The holidays were a busy time for Famicos’ Community Engagement department. When they weren’t running food pantries and grocery giveaways, they were coordinating holiday parties in three neighborhoods, several Famicos apartment communities, and a mixer for young professionals throughout the city. Santa was also very busy as he delivered toys to kids at the neighborhood Christmas parties and at Park Village, one of Famicos’ family apartments.

Famicos’ 5th Annual Young Professionals Holiday Mixer was a great success, with over 100 young adults joining together at Goldhorn Brewery for some fun and networking. The “price of admission” was a donation to our in-school supply pantries that Famicos stocks in each public school in Glenville, Hough, and St Clair - Superior. The young professionals donated hats and gloves for 50 school children.

Giving Tuesday is a time for people to stop and help those in need during the shopping frenzy of the holiday season. Famicos’ online campaign for Giving Tuesday benefited Project Welcome Home for the formerly homeless residents of 1850 Superior Apartments.

“When chronically homeless men and women arrive at 1850 Superior, they come with nothing but the clothes on their backs,” explains Joshua Gaitan, Property Manager of 1850 Superior, “One gentleman’s shoes were so worn, they had come apart at the sole and I could see all his toes sticking out.” Thanks to the generosity of those who donated items using our Project Welcome Amazon Wishlist and a special donation from Grants Plus, all 44 residents of 1850 Superior received a brand new pair of winter boots, socks, gloves, and hats, before the first heavy snow of the season. “We have another senior gentleman who walks 3 miles to St. Augustine Hunger Center every morning, to volunteer there. When he lived on the streets, they helped him get back on his feet and into our building. He goes there to give back. Now when it snows, he’ll be walking in warm boots with good tread.”

These Boots are made for Walking

Keep an eye out for our Community Engagement staff at community events and say hello! Got a suggestion for an event you’d like to see? Drop us an email and let us know: marketing@famicos.org

CLEVELAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

March 25 - April 5
Tower City Cinemas

L to R: Community Engagement staff Anjelica Morris, Brittney Smith, and Charlie Townsend at the Famicos staff Christmas Party.

L to R: Community Engagement staff Anjelica Morris, Brittney Smith, and Charlie Townsend at the Famicos staff Christmas Party.

www.clevelandfilm.org
BIZNESS SPOTLIGHT

He Loves Curves

Charkia Campbell is driven. As she was just beginning her young adult years, she was diagnosed with lupus, an incurable autoimmune disease. “When I got lupus, my life changed,” Charkia explains, “I gained a lot of weight and I lost my sexy, I lost my confidence.” It was through that life challenge that she came up with her vision: “I want to give women back their sexy.” Charkia would hear women complain about being too fat, or too tall, or even too skinny. “That’s why I named my boutique He Loves Curves, because curves are beautiful and our men (or women) love us for our curves, so why not be confident in that and show those curves off!”

At just 30 years old, Charkia opened her own clothing boutique in Hough. Six years later, He Loves Curves Boutique is receiving rave reviews on Google and Facebook. Impressed by detailed 5-star reviews, curvy women are starting to visit Charkia’s shop from all over Ohio, and have not been disappointed with her beautiful selection of clothes and accessories and her attention to each customer who visits. When asked what advice she would give to other young adults thinking about opening their own businesses, Charkia said, “Invest in yourself first and then just take the leap. Don’t be scared to fall because you’re going to. But you learn from it, and you fix it and you keep going.” Loving her Hough location at 3303 Superior Ave, Charkia gives back to the community by taking on local teens in the summer and training them in business and retail skills. She also holds a fashion show every year that attracts 300 people. For more info on He Loves Curves Boutique, call Charkia at (216) 272-7468.

Shop Small Saturday

He Loves Curves Boutique was one of 27 locally owned businesses that participated in Shop Small Saturday on November 30. The day after Black Friday has been deemed Shop Small Saturday in a national movement to encourage shoppers to support small businesses during the holiday shopping season. Unlike most of the revenue generated by the big box stores on Black Friday, 68 cents of every dollar spent at a local small business stays within that neighborhood. This is why Famicos Foundation became a neighborhood champion for the 2019 Shop Small Saturday, sponsored by American Express. Famicos visited participating small businesses in Glenville, Hough, and St Clair - Superior, gave out promotional materials, and provided advertising.

For assistance in starting or maintaining your own small business, contact one of our business development specialists:

- Carolyn Smith (for Glenville)  
  (216) 791-6476

- Clark Nelson (for Hough)  
  (216) 721-5595

- Charlie Townsend (for St Clair - Superior)  
  (216) 268-2138
FINANCIAL HEALTH
Famicos Receives $50,000 Donation from Chemical Bank

HOME-BUYER EDUCATION CLASSES
Wednesdays February 5, 12, 19, 26
March 4, 11, 18, 25

FINANCIAL LITERACY CLASSES
Saturdays February 22
March 21
April 18

CIRCLE NORTH HOMES ORIENTATION
Thursdays January 30
February 13, 27
Saturdays February 1, 15, 29

SUPER SATURDAYS - TAX RETURNS
Saturdays February 1, 29
March 21

Homeownership Resource Center Begins Classes

Beginning in February, the Famicos Foundation Homeownership Resource Center will begin offering free classes on financial literacy, home buyer education, and the lease-to-purchase program. Recently certified by NeighborWorks America, the Homeownership Resource Center helps clients to prepare for, invest in and realize their dream of homeownership. “Our goal is to ensure successful, sustainable homeownership for people of all income levels and backgrounds,” said Homeownership Program Manager Elizabeth Sanchez. “Successful, sustainable homeownership begins with educated consumers who have the tools, capacity and options to make good choices for their families and their future.” The choices can be overwhelming: whether to rent, buy, or lease-to-purchase, what kind of home to buy and in what neighborhood, the various financing plans to choose from. Even after the decision to become a homeowner has been made, there’s balancing a budget, saving for the future, and handling home maintenance. Famicos created its new Homeownership Resource Center to help residents navigate their way from renter to owner.

In addition to a $25,000 grant from NeighborWorks America, Famicos also received a $15,000 grant from US Bank, a generous $50,000 donation from Chemical Bank, and a donation from JP Morgan Chase to create the new Homeownership Resource Center. “This is a chance for Famicos to walk with a client through the transition from ‘I’m your tenant’ to ‘I own my own home’. By strengthening the financial health of our neighbors, we strengthen the economy of the whole neighborhood,” said Marketing Manager Tara Mowery, “Our foundress, Sr. Henrietta knew this. She was very insistent that the people she served should own their homes. Owning your own home, your own piece of land, is the American dream, it’s a major reason why people have immigrated to this country for centuries.”
Glenville Arts Campus Complete

Restoration is now complete on the third of three buildings on East 105th St. that together are called the Glenville Arts Campus. “Twelve House” as it is affectionately known has been expertly restored to all its historic beauty by the Famicos Real Estate Development team. Like the other two buildings at the Glenville Arts Campus, this one will also host an arts-and-culture-focused nonprofit: Twelve Literary Arts. Their homebase at Twelve House provides a safe and brave space for poets and writers of color to be in residence, to teach, to learn, and to create. “This building is not just important for Cleveland, this is rare in this country,” said Executive Artistic Director Daniel Gray-Kontar, “That there is a house, a safe space, for writers to build their craft and to invite poets and writers from all over this country, this is rare and in fact has never happened in the City of Cleveland.”

Historic East Boulevard

Famicos Foundation’s influence on the East Blvd Historic District continues. Recently the Real Estate Development Department completed the restoration of two century homes on East 98th Street. Furthering our mission of neighborhood revitalization, in December, it was announced that Famicos was awarded the Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit to complete the restoration of St. Mark’s Presbyterian Church located at 1319 East Blvd.

Despite being over a century old, the building retains its gothic revival architectural elements, including sweeping arched ceilings, hanging lanterns, and stunning set of stained glass windows. St Mark’s is one of only six projects statewide to receive this year’s historic tax credits. The $1.3 million restoration project proposed by Famicos received $193,000 in tax credits. “We’re looking at several possibilities for St. Mark’s,” said Director of Real Estate Development Khrys Shefton, “Our goal is to use this beautiful space to enrich the community, while honoring its cultural roots.”
Glenville and Hough are historic neighborhoods. While many homes are aging, so are their owners. This can create a doubly dangerous situation, increasing the chances of falls, allergens, or pests. With generous funding from the City of Cleveland, the State of Ohio, the McGregor Foundation, Dominion Energy, and US Bank, Famicos Foundation is able to perform emergency home repairs and safety modifications for low-income minorities, senior citizens, and the disabled.

Ms. Anita Peeples, whose bathroom is pictured above, is 90 years old and going strong. She was recently in a physical rehab facility following medical treatment. The facility would not release her to return to her home while her bathroom was in the state it was in at the time. It simply wasn’t safe. That’s when Famicos stepped in. The flooring, sink and vanity, door, lighting, and towel bars were all replaced. The toilet was replaced with a water-efficient tall toilet, easier to stand up from. The previous bathtub that Ms. Peeples would have to climb in and out of was replaced with a gorgeous walk-in shower with safety grab bars. Mrs. Peeples is now recovering from her treatment faster than ever, in the comfort and safety of her own home.

To find out more about our Home Repair Program, qualifying factors, what kinds of repairs are covered, and about safety modifications and aging-in-place, contact one of our neighborhood specialists:

- Mark Smith (for Glenville)  
  (216) 791-6476
- Fatimah Shabazz (for Hough)  
  (216) 721-5595
- Charles Townsend (for St Clair - Superior)  
  (216) 268-2138
- Erica Walker-Smith (for Lee-Harvard)  
  (216) 664-4944

KURENTOVANJE  
CLEVELAND

February 16 - 22, 2020
Scare away winter with Cleveland’s annual Slovenian festival!

clevelandkurentovanje.com
AVAILABLE PROPERTIES

THE MADISON

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, first-floor cafe. Close to UH, CWRU, VA, and Cleveland Clinic. Easy access to highways and downtown.

famicos.org/the-madison

1464 East 105th St, Cleveland
1 bedroom, 1 bathroom
Starting at $1125/month

CIRCLE NORTH HOMES

New Construction Lease-to-Purchase Homes
3 bdrms 1.5 bths 1,329 sqft
Starting at $655/month
Income-Restricted

Brand new, modern appliances, open floor plan. Basement, single garage, low-maintenance yard, porch. Some ADA-compliant homes are available. Close to VA, UH, and Cleveland Clinic hospitals. These are 15-year lease-to-purchase homes that are income restricted.

famicos.org/the-madison