Earle Whitmore is the first resident to move into Circle North Homes, Famicos’ collection of 30 new-construction lease-to-purchase houses in Glenville. Famicos was awarded Low-Income Housing Tax Credits for the $7.6 million project. Construction began in December, slowed a bit during the COVID-19 outbreak, and is expected to finish later this year.

The Lease-to-Purchase Program consists of single-family homes that are leased at an affordable rate for 15 years, with the intention to purchase the home in year 16. This program gives renters the time and the support to build up good credit and savings before committing to a long-term mortgage and becoming a homeowner. Why buy a house when you can just rent? “In many cases, your monthly mortgage payment is actually lower than your monthly rent,” says Famicos Homeownership Counselor Bridget Holmes, “Renting helps build wealth for your landlord, buying helps build wealth for yourself.” Bridget is a part of Famicos’ Homeownership Resource Center (HRC). The HRC will be helping Mr. Whitmore and the other 30 families moving in to Circle North Homes, on their journey from renters to home owners.

Continued on page 5...
FROM THE DIRECTOR’S DESK

Dear friends,

I want to take this issue of the Famicos Foundation newsletter to recognize our front-line workers. These are our essential workers who have been working through the pandemic to deliver necessary services to our 800 resident families and our 1,200 more families who live within the three neighborhoods we serve. Our Property Management department has been responding to emergencies at the height of the pandemic, making sure our residents were safe. Our Community Building & Engagement department and our Ward offices have worked tirelessly to ensure that families in the community have the food, toiletries, and disinfectants they need to see them through an extended lockdown period. They have also been helping folks complete the census and register to vote - two civic duties that are essential to the allocation of resources into our communities. Finally, our Real Estate Development department has been supporting small businesses, continuing construction of our 30 new lease-to-purchase homes, and continuing home repairs for seniors - even more critical now that many seniors must remain in their homes for long periods of time. I am thankful for our front-line workers. I see when they get tired and anxious. But I also see the satisfaction and pride that they gain from delivering essential services to those who need them most, when they need them most.

John O. Anoliefo, Executive Director

Register to vote. Exercise your right to vote.

Join us Thursday September 3, 2020 to register to vote or request your absentee ballot.

EASTSIDE MARKET 10 AM TO 11:30 AM
10505 ST CLAIRE AVE

BLACK BOX FIX 12:30 - 2:30 PM
1400 EAST 105 ST

GUSTO’S 4:00 - 6:00 PM
12304 SUPERIOR AVE
FAMICOS ON THE FRONT LINES
Coronavirus Relief Effort

FRONT LINE WORKERS
Famicos acknowledges our employees who have been working hard on the front lines since the pandemic began:

Romell Alford, Maintenance
Duane Baker, Maintenance
Clayreesa Barnes, Administration
Erica Burnett, Community Building & Engagement
Rhoda Cantrell, Healthy Homes Initiative
Anthony Cornett, Maintenance
Don Darrington, Maintenance
Greta Ensley, Property Management
Joshua Gaitan, Property Management
Bonnie Howard, Healthy Homes Initiative
Lothario Marchmon, Real Estate
Anjelica Morris, CB&E
Adrienne Mosley, Tax Lab
Royce Muskeyvalley, CB&E
Latrice Nash, Property Management
Clark Nelson, Ward 7 Office
Kim Parker, Maintenance
Shana Roberts, Ward 7 Office
Junia Roldan, Property Management
Stephania Rowe, Administration
Sadie Sandlin, Tax Lab
Andrea Searcy, CB&E
Jahaad Shakur, Ward 7 Office
Mark Smith, Real Estate
Brittney Smith, CB&E
Audrey Stubbs, CB&E
Ebony Timberlake, Property Management
Charlie Townsend, Ward 10 Office
Cassandra Upchurch, Property Management
Cassandra White, Property Management
Tiandre Zeigler, Maintenance

FRONT LINE VOLUNTEERS
We are especially grateful to those who risked their own safety to volunteer to pack food and toiletries each week for our food distributions and deliveries:

Students from:
Hawken High School  John Weiss
Youth Opportunities Unlimited  Carol Brandt
CWRU  Shintaro Ng

INDIVIDUAL DONORS
We give our heartfelt thanks to these individual donors who have contributed to our Coronavirus Relief efforts:

Thomas Basista  Dan & Tara Mowery
Loretta Bearer  Charles Nock
Frances Bodnar  Mary Quadrant
Ken & Kathy Brandt  Joan Roach
Jay Dombos  Kathy Salem
Peter & Debra Guren  Charles Sims
Andrew Hoffman  Theresa Sutton
Muhammad Hussain  John Weiss
Terese Kaminski  Joe Weiss Jr.
Mary Kohl  Anonymous Donor

CORPORATE DONORS
Famicos recognizes the following Corporate donors and Charitable Foundations who have allowed Coronavirus Relief efforts to reach over 2,000 people in the past five months:

ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY PARTNERS
CLEVELAND FOUNDATION Rapid Response Fund
NEIGHBORWORKS AMERICA
FINANCE FUND
CLEVELAND DEVELOPMENT ADVISORS
PNC FOUNDATION
CITIZENS BANK
HUNTINGTON BANK
CHEMICAL BANK
WELLS FARGO
COHHIO Emergency Pandemic Fund
SISTERS OF CHARITY Good Samaritan Fund
MYCOM
SHERWIN WILLIAMS
US BANK
CLEVELAND CLINIC FOUNDATION
SERVEOHIO

We also extend our gratitude to these partners who contributed in-kind gifts to our Coronavirus Relief efforts:

BLACK BOX FIX
CARESOURCE
THE FAB FOUNDATION
GARDEN VALLEY
GREATER CLEVELAND FOOD BANK
MCDONALD’S
MEDWISH
NORTHERN OHIO RECOVERY ASSOCIATION
ST ALOYSIUS
UNTIL WE DO IT, BELLA CANVAS, ASHLEY GRAHAM
VERIZON / LISC
It has now been one month since the brutal murder of George Floyd. Our pain over this heinous act of injustice is still very real and palpable. We chose to take some time to reflect and to have honest, at times uncomfortable, conversations with our staff and Board of Directors before issuing this statement. Fifty years ago, Famicos was born in this same strife. We were forged in fire and our mettle has been tested. The neighborhoods we serve suffered appalling systemic racism back then, just as they still do today. We were a part of the neighborhood we served then, just as we are still today. Decades of systemic racism and oppression have led to a certain trauma in the communities we serve. We see it, we feel it, we acknowledge it and we want to be a part of the healing process that is needed.

To effectively be a part of that healing, Famicos needs to acknowledge that we, like many other community organizations, have been complicit in the perpetuation of systemic oppression and injustice and we vow to evaluate our own practices. As we embark upon our next 50 years, Famicos will strive to infuse racial equity and diversity principles into all that we do. We will put together a practical action plan, with significant input from the community members we serve and in partnership with other community organizations. We will use our platform to be a megaphone to amplify the voices, fears, needs, and frustrations of those we serve. We will continue to provide services to those who need it most, the most vulnerable members of our neighborhoods, and to do so with respect for the dignity of each person we serve. We will facilitate multigenerational conversation around racial equity and diversity because we know that it will take all of us to effect real and lasting change. We have been encouraged by the galvanization of young people that we are now seeing. We will support sister organizations, especially those lead by young Black people, in their efforts to tear down the systems of oppression that have been allowed to exist for far too long. We will support education of Black communities on the importance of filling out the census, registering to vote, and voting in elections.

To varying extents, Famicos has already been doing these things. But we know we need to do things differently, including holding the community development system accountable for its treatment of Black people. As we continue to serve the neighborhoods of Hough, Glenville, and St. Clair-Superior for the next 50 years, we pray we may be leaders in thought and action in changing the unjust systems in place, particularly in housing, education, employment, and health and wellness. Famicos will lead by example. We will listen to the needs of our community members and respond to those needs, not just what we think they need. We invite you, the members of Hough, Glenville, and St. Clair-Superior, to engage with us during these important conversations. Please watch the Famicos website and social media channels for various upcoming opportunities to share your thoughts and have your voices heard.

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**RACIAL EQUITY & INCLUSION**

On June 17 of this year, Famicos Foundation released an official statement on Systemic Racism. The Statement is presented in its entirety below. Famicos has not been idle in the past two months since we released this heartfelt reaction and pledge. Our Racial Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee has been meeting, their goal to create an inclusive organization by examining current procedures and policies and making the necessary changes that reflect an equity lens in all that we do, both externally and internally. Every single Famicos employee has signed up for Racial Equity and Inclusion training through Cleveland Neighborhood Progress. “If we let this moment come and go, then we’ve missed our chance,” said Famicos Executive Director John O. Anoliefo while addressing his staff, “Now is the time for real change.”

**Statement on Systemic Racism**

It has now been one month since the brutal murder of George Floyd. Our pain over this heinous act of injustice is still very real and palpable. We chose to take some time to reflect and to have honest, at times uncomfortable, conversations with our staff and Board of Directors before issuing this statement. Fifty years ago, Famicos was born in this same strife. We were forged in fire and our mettle has been tested. The neighborhoods we serve suffered appalling systemic racism back then, just as they still do today. We were a part of the neighborhood we served then, just as we are still today. Decades of systemic racism and oppression have led to a certain trauma in the communities we serve. We see it, we feel it, we acknowledge it and we want to be a part of the healing process that is needed.

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Throughout the 16-year process, the HRC will work with the Circle North Homes residents on financial education, a short-term credit assessment and improvement plan, and a personalized long-term strategy to build up savings and assets.

Building up the personal wealth of residents in the neighborhood leads to a stronger local economy. “Thirty new families moving in to the community has a tremendous economic impact on any neighborhood,” says Director of Real Estate Development Khrys Shefton, “but imagine that just a few short months ago there were no structures on these sites. So, in addition to wonderful new families that will spend money in the community, there are now beautiful homes where there once were none.”

The houses are 3-bedroom, 1.5 bath, with garages, stainless steel appliances, pantry, and 2nd floor laundry. There are some ADA-compliant homes available and all 30 houses are energy-efficient.

GLENVILLE: Community Impact Measurement Survey

Tell us about your experience living in Glenville!

Famicos Foundation is working with neighbors and partner organizations to improve Glenville. This 10-minute survey will help guide future projects and improvements in our community.

Go online at bit.ly/2ZQQGop or photograph the QR code below with your smart phone camera to take the survey now.

Call (216) 791-6476 ext. 223 to request a paper survey or to do the survey by phone.

Email marketing@famicos.org to request a paper survey or to do the survey by phone.

If you live in the red area to the left, complete the survey and receive a $10 gift card to Glen Village as a thank you!
A crowd of over 100 people cheered as Cleveland rapper William “Pooh Gutta” Johnson, teamed up with local entrepreneurs LaDarryl “AO” Clement, Tremaine Gilson, and Jacory Stone to bring their dream to life at the Grand Opening of **Gusto’s Seafood & Chicken**. Located at 12304 Superior Ave, in the old Hot Sauce Williams spot, Gusto’s has been living up to its name. “You can’t even get in,” said Famicos Housing Rehab Specialist Mark Smith, “I went there at 10 am and there was already a line.” Gusto’s has been packed every day since they opened.

Pooh’s love for seafood and wings inspired this second restaurant from the same team that brought us Subcity Restaurant. “To bring Gusto’s to fruition is to push the culture forward in the community we were raised in, but more so, aspired to serve in,” said the owners.

“I’m really impressed,” said Famicos Executive Director John Anoliefo as he surveyed the crowd on opening day, “We’re welcoming another Black-owned business to the neighborhood.” Famicos owns the building that Gusto’s is housed in and helped with the outdoor signage as well.

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**BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT**

**Gusto’s Opens in Glenville**

Restaurant owners LaDarryl Clement, William Johnson, Tremaine Gilson, and Jacory Stone, along with Famicos Executive Director John Anoliefo, and Ward 9 Councilman Kevin Conwell cut the ribbon at the Gusto’s Grand Opening (August 2020).

Need help launching your small business in Glenville, Hough, or St Clair - Superior? Speak with one of our Business Engagement Specialists today!

- Carolyn Smith (for Glenville)
  (216) 791-6476
- Clark Nelson (for Hough)
  (216) 721-5595
- Charlie Townsend (for St Clair - Superior)
  (216) 268-2138

Proud Grandmother (Eva Johnson) & Mother (Valarie Johnson) of Gusto’s owner William Johnson, along with Famicos Business Engagement Specialist Clark Nelson.
The statewide lockdown has been challenging for small business owners across Ohio, and even more so in economically distressed urban communities. Famicos received a $100,000 grant from the Finance Fund and Cleveland Development Advisors to assist small businesses in Glenville, Hough, and St Clair - Superior with COVID-related hardships. So far, Famicos has given $2,500 microgrants to 26 small businesses throughout all three neighborhoods. These grants will allow small businesses to pay rent, taxes, payroll, inventory, or utilities, business expenses that were still accumulating even as their businesses were unable to open due to statewide COVID safety measures.

The seven businesses that together make up Glen Village on E 105th Street each received assistance. Glen Village had just opened in January, then got hit with COVID lockdowns in March. All seven are minority-owned businesses. “I knew that I was meant to be here,” said Pipe N Hot Grill owner Angela Sharpley about winning the original pitch competition for a spot in Glen Village, “I actually grew up in this neighborhood and I actually got my first job ever at the McDonald’s right up the street. My goal was to be able to get a chance to own my own restaurant and to create more opportunities for single mothers like myself.” Sharpley runs the cajun comfort-food restaurant with her 17-year old daughter. “Famicos has helped us so much, especially when it comes to funding! The grants that they gave us were extremely essential for us. They are the only organization that made it easy for us to be able to receive grant dollars necessary to keep our business operations going smoothly. They patronize us as much as they possibly can and send people our way really often and that’s appreciated too!”

If you own a small business in our service area, please see our website for more details on COVID-relief grants and other ways Famicos can support your business.
Brittney Smith has worked at Famicos a little over a year but has made a big impact in that time. When COVID hit, social distancing became a unique challenge to our Community Building & Engagement (CB&E) department. How does one engage residents and community members without being in the same room? Brittney and the CB&E team, started to think outside the box. They teamed up with Hough Reads and Willson School to do a virtual reading & cooking series called Read Eat Grow. They also hosted live virtual events, such as a cooking demo and a census block party, using Facebook and Instagram Live. Brittney’s favorite program was this summer’s Census Campaign to raise awareness of why completing the US Census is important and how it impacts the whole neighborhood. Brittney’s team, with a grant from the Cleveland Foundation, transformed the Famicos bus into an ice cream truck and went riding through the neighborhood on streets with the lowest census response rates. “I remember we turned onto this one street, and we had the music going, and all these kids just came running,” recalls Brittney. The adults would follow the kids and that’s when the CB&E team could engage residents about the census. In many cases, they actually helped the residents complete the census right then using their smart phones. “It was very meaningful to connect with the residents and help them feel empowered, help them feel like they played their part when they were finished.”

The Census Campaign also included online contests and a “social media week” featuring TikTok videos of Famicos staff and residents explaining the importance of the US Census. Brittney will soon be expanding her career with the Cleveland Metro School District. She will be missed at Famicos. When asked what she learned working at Famicos, she replied, “That the work that’s being done is bigger than me.”

Famicos congratulates Muhammad Al-amin, 11, from Chardon Hills Elementary School for winning our Youth Census Logo design contest. Have YOU filled out the census yet? It’s easy and it helps direct funds to your neighborhood.

my2020census.gov
FOOD DISTRIBUTION
Feeding the hungry in a pandemic

When the Coronavirus pandemic first hit, Famicos reacted quickly to make sure all community residents, especially those who were elderly or disabled, had access to fresh food, disinfectants, and masks. We also educated on the importance of wearing masks and social distancing. Thanks to the generous support of the donors listed on page 3, Famicos has held at least one food distribution every week since March. Some weeks, we’ve had as many as four distributions or deliveries. As soon as safety precautions allowed, we started back up our Farmer’s Market. We cleaned up our community gardens and even gave away fruit trees. We know this pandemic will stretch on for a while. We also know that the neighbors we serve will continue to need food, masks, and sanitizers.

We want you to know: we’re here for you. We’ve been here for fifty years and we’re not going anywhere now. Follow us on social media to get times and locations of our food distributions and other essential services we provide.

Farmer’s Market at League Park
THURSDAYS 2:30 - 6:00 PM
LEAGUE PARK IN HISTORIC HOUGH
7721 SUPERIOR AVE
Fruits & vegetables, jams & sauces, teas & herbs, pies & pastries

Cleveland Harbor Eastern Embayment Resilience Study
Share your ideas!

CHEERS is a community-focused resiliency plan for the Eastern Cleveland Lakefront. We’re looking to protect the environment, reconnect communities to the lake, and provide new amenities.

clevelandmetroparks.com/CHEERS
Almost a century ago, Miles Standish School was built in Glenville. In 1960, the Cleveland Public School District dedicated a 3-acre tract next to the school to be a garden for the school’s Horticulture Education Program. Students from 4th to 10th grade grew corn, tomatoes, beans, peppers, beets, eggplants, and flowers. Mayor Michael White, who the school would later be renamed for, had his first summer jobs working in the garden, according to an interview in a 1973 Plain Dealer article. Sixty years later, the same garden is still used for the same purpose, to educate students on horticulture, and Famicos has played a role in its continuation. Along with the Glenville Community and Michael R. White School, Famicos has kept the garden as an urban oasis, growing food each year.

Glenville residents can have their own plots and grow their own food there, throughout the year. Any food that Famicos grows goes to our food & hygiene pantries in five local schools. With generous grants from Aetna Medicaid, Caresource, and Whole Kids Foundation, we’ve not only kept the Community Garden growing at Michael R. White School, we’ve expanded to include a similar garden at Mary M. Bethune School. Famicos incorporates horticulture lessons into our Youth Landscaping Summer Employment Program and our summer Read Eat Grow series, and is developing a horticulture curriculum for the two schools.
For NeighborWorks Week this year, Famicos’ Community Building & Engagement department led the effort to create a new garden, next to the new “Welcome to Historic Hough” sign at 79th St and Addison. About 23 Famicos staff & volunteers, and 10 youth from the Landscaping Summer Employment Program all joined in over three days to create the Addison Triangle Garden. The garden includes flowers, trees, rock designs, and a gravel walkway. “Thank you so much to the Famicos Foundation, and the residents of Hough for making this a reality,” said Ward 7 Councilman Basheer Jones.

BIG THANKS to SIMS BUICK EUCLID!

Famicos Foundation would like to thank Charlie Sims at Sims Buick in Euclid for the very generous discount on a new pick-up truck for the Famicos Foundation Maintenance Department. In addition to hauling appliances and other heavy items needed for Famicos’ 800 residential units, the truck will also be used in the summer for our Youth Landscaping Program.
AVAILABLE PROPERTIES

1464 East 105th St, Cleveland
1 bed, 1 bath  Starting at $1115/month

REMODELED CENTURY HOME
2 bedroom, 2.5 bath, 1400 sq ft
$259,900

Classic historic elements combined with modern convenience, this eco-friendly townhome will WOW you and your guests. Hardwood floors, double garage, and rear deck. Polished granite countertops and smart home technology complete this modern rehab of a classic 1890 home. Prime Glenville location is steps away from shopping and dining, all with convenient highway access. Down Payment Assistance and Tax Abatement both available!

famicos.org/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