

THE FOUNDATION

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FAMICOS FOUNDATION



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MARY M. BETHUNE CIRCLE SCHOLARS

Discovering Neighborhood Gems

University Circle Inc, a nonprofit development organization, launched the Circle Scholars program earlier this year as an after-school program for a cohort of seventh- and eighth-graders who are chosen through an application process.

will create and present a project of their experiences to their entire school. For most students, these trips will be their first visits ever to these museums. That was the case for one student named, Shylah, even though her school is only blocks away from

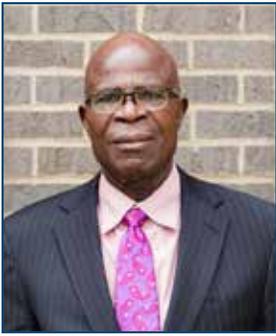


Circle Scholars from Mary McLeod Bethune School at the Famicos Youth Employment Fair.

The students, including several from Mary McLeod Bethune School, have been visiting University Circle's selection of top-notch museums and spending time with educators who lead community-focused lessons. The visits to the Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland Botanical Garden and Cleveland History Center, are much more immersive than field trips, with programming aimed at helping students discover new things about their city and feel that they have a meaningful role in its success.

"This is about connecting the school with these institutions and helping students look at their community through a bunch of different lenses," said Greg Deegan, the director of community education for UCI. After their visits, the Circle Scholars

University Circle. She and her classmates stared in wonder as they walked through the Eleanor Armstrong Smith Glasshouse, an indoor garden at the Cleveland Botanical Garden. "It was so realistic, and it's amazing that instead of traveling across the world, you can see it right here," Shylah said of the Madagascar display. She added, "I'm learning a lot more about what's around me and actually getting to see it." The Circle Scholars recently took an asset-mapping tour of Glenville with Andrea Searcy, Education and Urban Sustainability AmeriCorps Vista, and Erica Burnett, Community Building & Engagement Director of Famicos. Along the tour, they noted several neighborhood gems and ended with a "deep dive discussion" about how the neighborhood they live in affects their every day life.



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear friends,

I can't believe it's almost spring 2019! It wasn't too long ago we ushered in the new year, thinking that would slow things down so we could recover from the flurry of activities

during the holiday season. Staff, especially in the Community Building & Engagement department, were visibly tired from convening and implementing various holiday events for families, youth and seniors. We were all very happy to be home for the holidays, which were too short, and since coming back, we've been running non-stop... When you are having fun, time flies! Don't get me wrong, I am not complaining, I am happy to be in this space doing what gives me happiness. 2019 will be a year of change at Famicos Foundation. We've expanded our focus areas to include Glenville, Hough/Ward 7, E. 55th in St. Clair-Superior (Ward 10) and Ward 1. While the housing industry was booming in Cleveland, it provided a strong market for labor to move around for better opportunities and Famicos has also been affected by his phenomenon. As we all know, change is often hard to embrace but we have embraced it, figuring out how to use the opportunities it provided. We have added new faces to our staff roster in marketing, property management, maintenance, administration, and human resources. To all these new employees, I say welcome!

If you have driven along E. 105th street lately between Wade Park and Superior, I have no doubt you slowed down on your speed to savor the transformation taking shape on the street. On the west side of the street is the 63 unit, mixed-use Glenville Circle North Apartments under construction by the Finch Group. This is the first development started as part of Mayor Frank G. Jackson's Neighborhood Transformation Initiative expected to be completed in June of this year. Directly across the street from



An artist's rendition of the mixed-use building at E 105th & Ashbury Ave.

the Glenville Circle North Apartments is a \$16 million, 32 unit Fisher House, being developed by the Cuyahoga Fisher House Foundation, for housing families of Veterans receiving treatment at the Louis Stokes Veterans Medical Center. Both developments are forerunners of what are in store for the revitalization of Glenville, especially E. 105th, as a commercial corridor. If you travel further north to E. 105th and St. Clair, you will be met with the fascinating view of the new East Side Market that opened for business a few weeks ago. Yes, things are happening in Glenville for real! Last Wednesday, March 13th, we hosted a Youth Resource & Employment Fair at the Glenville Recreation Center, bringing together nearly 300 youth from wards 7, 8, 9 & 10 under one roof. Over 40 employers/ agencies attended, representing local businesses, the US Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines, Universities/Colleges, City of Cleveland, Trades, etc.

As you know, Famicos Foundation is a proud chartered member of NeighborWorks America (since 2014). This year, Cleveland was honored to host the Winter 2019 Neighborworks Training Institute (NTI). It was a proud moment to welcome folks from across the 50 states in the Union and show off select neighborhoods in the city including Glenville, Hough and E. 55th street. Most importantly, nearly 50% of Famicos staff (22 people) participated in the Training Institute to update areas of competencies or learn new things, sit on panels or participate as thought leaders on matters affecting the industry. I would be remiss if I failed to thank all our supporters for making the journey easier for us by your contribution of time, talent and funds. YOU - all of you that have supported Famicos - made it possible for us to reach the heights that we have.

So far it has been an incredible first quarter. Thank you for your support.

John O. Anoliefo, Executive Director

UPCOMING EVENTS

8-WEEK HEALTH CHALLENGE
Thursday May 2

REBUILDING TOGETHER
Wednesday June 12

ANNUAL MEETING
Thursday June 27

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER
Thursday October 17

FOLLOWING FAMICOS

Check out our
NEWLY REDESIGNED website at
famicos.org and sign up for our electronic newsletter.

You can also catch our latest news
by following us on
Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter...
you'll find us
[@famicos](https://www.instagram.com/famicos)

Give back with



Did you know you can support Famicos Foundation while shopping on Amazon? Visit smile.amazon.com and search for Famicos Foundation. Once you add us, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to Famicos. Thank you for your support!

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Eastside Market



A happy customer leaves the Eastside Market.

An oasis in Glenville's food desert

"Transforming a food desert into an oasis with an adjacent health center, now that's a recipe for healthy living," said Willie Austing, President & CEO of the Northeast Ohio Neighborhood Health Services (NEON). "Healthy happy people make healthy communities." Glenville was declared a food desert by the US Department of Agriculture in 2009. A food desert involves several factors: no grocery stores within a one-mile radius, easy access to fast food but not fresh, healthy food, no affordable healthy food options, no transportation to get to the nearest grocery. Eastside Market had operated at St Clair and E 105th St in Glenville from 1988-2007 but had to close its doors due to increased poverty in the neighborhood. Before the Eastside Market's grand reopening on February 20

of this year, the closest grocery store to Glenville was well over one mile away. In contrast, Glenville has 7 fast food restaurants. Because of this all-too-common trend, food deserts have a high correlation with increased diabetes rates in their residents.

The new Eastside Market opened its doors after a 4-year, \$6.9 million restoration and collaboration between the City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, NEON, and Mazzulo Enterprises. Healthy food options go hand-in-hand with learning about wellness and nutrition, so NEON will soon open a Kitchen, Wellness & Community Center in the same building. The 14,000 square foot facility will bring 75 new jobs to the area, mostly going to people who were previously unemployed. "Cleveland is proud to be part of the Eastside Market's historic renovation serving the people of Glenville, Collinwood and surrounding communities. The City has invested in this project to help ensure residents can have access to a full-service grocery store," said Mayor Frank Jackson.



The Eastside Market offers a wide variety of fresh fruits & vegetables.

EASTSIDE MARKET

10505 St. Clair Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44108
Monday thru Saturday 8 am – 8 pm
Sunday 8 am – 5 pm
<https://www.eastsidemkt.com>

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Central/Kinsman Wins Health Challenge

Champion Glenville team loses after tie-breaker

This year's first Cleveland Clinic 8-Week Community Health Challenge came down to a tie between seasoned champions Glenville and relative newcomer Central/Kinsman. The popular challenge is held three times a year, with residents from East Cleveland, Glenville, Central/Kinsman, Hough and Fairfax competing to win a trophy and neighborhood bragging rights. Over an 8-week period, the mostly senior citizen participants gain points for their community by attending fitness classes, nutrition classes, and other wellness classes, eating healthy and losing weight. At the end of the 8-week challenge, all points are tallied for each neighborhood and the winner is announced.

The first challenge of 2019 ran from January 14 through February 28, with over 70 residents competing. The reigning champs from Glenville were clearly in it to win it with their matching red t-shirts that boldly declared, "Age is a number, call its bluff." At the finale, with Cleveland Clinic representatives on hand, an unlikely tie was announced between Glenville and Central/Kinsman. The tie-breaker came down to the total Body-Mass Index (BMI) loss statistic of each team. BMI is an accurate test of weight loss because it takes into account a person's gender, age, and fat/muscle content as well as height and weight. Central/Kinsman's BMI loss for the team was a mere 0.03 lower



Seniors show off their stretching skills at the finale of the Health Challenge.



Participants in the Winter 2019 Cleveland Clinic 8-Week Community Health Challenge.

than Glenville's and a new champion was crowned. The spring 8-Week Health Challenge begins on May 2 and you can bet that Glenville will be determined to bring the trophy back home.

The 8-Week Community Health Challenge is a Healthy Community Initiative and is part of an ongoing collaborative effort between the Cleveland Clinic, Famicos Foundation, and various community partners to promote community-wide health & wellness. Healthy Community Initiative programs are built around three core areas: education, nutrition, and physical activity. The Community Health



The winning team from the Central/Kinsman neighborhood.

Challenge is just one way Famicos' Community Building & Engagement department promotes neighborhood health & wellness. We also host the Glenville Heritage 5K Run (August 10, 2019), bicycle programs and repair workshops, healthy cooking demonstrations and classes, and of course, the Gateway 105 Farmers Market each summer. To join your neighborhood's team in the next 8-Week Community Health Challenge, contact the Langston Hughes Health Center at (216) 361-1773.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Property Manager Junia Flonnoy



Famicos employee Junia Flonnoy at one of our Scattered Site houses.

Junia Flonnoy is property manager of University Tower Apartments, Covington Gardens Apartments, Doan Classroom Apartments, and Famicos' newest apartment building, The Madison. With all 190 units under her management currently filled, Ms. Flonnoy serves families, senior citizens, veterans, and residents who have disabilities. Ms. Flonnoy is no stranger to Community Development Corporations, having worked for a large CDC in Boston for 8 years before coming to Cleveland. She is also the author of *Ohhh, You Have Section 8: A Compilation of Funny, Sad, Gross and True Stories From the Front Lines of Subsidized Housing* (available on Amazon). She has been a property manager with Famicos for two years and loves to help those she serves. "It feels good when you hand over the keys," she said, "We've had quite a few homeless lately and a lot of them have been women. I had one woman who's been with me for a month now and every time she sees me, she says, 'Thank you so much!' I told her, 'You don't have to thank me, you live here now.'"

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

Youth Resource & Employment Fair



Middle school youth at the Youth Resource & Employment Fair.

Famicos Foundation and MyCom held Glenville's largest job fair for youth on March 13 at the Glenville Recreation Center. Around 300 young people, from 9 different schools, attended the fair. There were seven colleges, four branches of the armed forces, and 25 employers and youth resources represented at the fair. As DJ Lokey blasted "Work", dozens of middle schoolers filed through the rec center picking up backpacks, lunches, brochures, flyers, and talking with all of the employers. They also met in small groups with special guest speakers Erika Brown, Community Network Manager at Neighborhood Connections, and Oronde East, Educational Consultant for Councilman for Councilman Basheer Jones in Ward 7. With representatives from Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.) Cleveland, MyCom Cleveland, and

Famicos there, several young people applied to the Summer Youth Employment Program, using the Rec Center's computer lab. The Youth Employment Program offers summer employment, mentoring, and training through Y.O.U. for youth aged 14-24 in Glenville, Hough, and St. Clair-Superior. The registration deadline is Friday May 3 and all youth must apply online at jobs.youthopportunities.org.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR YOUTH
SUMMER EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM
FRIDAY MAY 3**



Register online at jobs.youthopportunities.org
Students must be 14 on or before June 1st to be eligible for this program.

SERVICES FEATURE

No-Stress Tax Returns



Ms Sandlin assists a resident with her taxes on "Super Saturday".

Tax season can be one of the most stressful times of the year. For Glenville resident Warren Ireland, this tax season was all smooth sailing. Three years ago, Mr. Ireland asked someone to do his taxes for him. "They said, 'Oh yeah, no problem,' and then they didn't do it right and they

told me I had to pay [the IRS]," he said. That's when he discovered that he could get his tax return done for free at Famicos Foundation, through the Cuyahoga Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Coalition and the United Way. "The ladies here are so professional, they took care of everything. They just made it seem effortless, like no stress!" he said of his experience with the volunteers and staff at the Famicos Foundation tax lab. Ireland returned this year to get his taxes done. He walked out of the Tax Lab with a completed tax return in hand, ready for early filing, a refund coming his way, and a smile, knowing this yearly chore was done professionally and accurately.

Sadie Sandlin has been employed with Famicos Foundation for 9 years. She started as an Americorp Vista temporary employee in the Tax Lab and is now the Manager of Programs and Services in Famicos' Asset Management

department. When asked what the most satisfying part of her job was, an enthusiastic Ms. Sandlin replied, "Educating the people. I get to help them understand the different financial pieces. We want to make it a smooth process for people." Ms. Sandlin also assists residents with a Lease-Purchase option to transition from renting to home ownership. "If we can relieve the stigma of 'I have terrible credit, I can never own a house' and teach people how these different financial pieces fit together and how yes, they can become home owners, then we're doing something right and we're really helping people."

Ms. Dionna Riley has had her taxes prepared at Famicos for the past 6 years. "Everyone is so nice. I love the fact that Famicos offers tax returns for free," she said, proudly holding her completed tax return. Ms.

Riley was renting a house in Glenville until the mold in her rental house and the raccoon defecation in her attic became a risk to her health. Although she informed her landlord, neither problem was addressed. "I didn't know it at the time, but I was breathing that stuff in every day," she said. Ms. Riley has developed sarcoidosis, an inflammatory lung disease. She and her son are currently living with her mother but she plans to eventually own her own home. She has been working with Ms Detria Giddings, Programs & Services Assistant, and Ms. Kiara Long, Eligibility Specialist, on Famicos' Lease-Purchase program. "I think it's a great program for low-income families to be able to become home buyers," she said.



Ms Dionna Riley

With the Lease-Purchase program, the EITC tax program, the Famicos Cares Legal counseling program, and a financial coaching program through Community Financial Centers, the Famicos Programs & Services department is always busy. Although they prepare tax returns all year long, March and April are the busiest times of the year. Famicos helped prepare roughly 3000 tax returns last year. This year, before the height of the "busy season", 1300 returns have already been prepared. On the so-called "Super Saturday" in mid-March, over 100 returns are expected to be done by staff and volunteers in just a four-hour block. Luckily, Glenville is the home of superheroes; ones that wear capes and ones that don't.



Left to right: Detria Giddings, Programs & Services Assistant, Warren Ireland, Glenville resident, and Sadie Sandlin, Programs & Services Manager.

HOUSING FEATURE

Century-Home Beauty, Modern-Day Function

Written by Tara Mowery



John & Nancy Mudry, potential buyers, with Project Manager, Lothario Marchmon in front of one of the house's 3 different fireplaces.

Anyone who walks through the century home at 10624 Wade Park Avenue can't help but be impressed both by the unique features that only historical houses have and by the slick modern conveniences. The massive 5200 square foot house was built in 1904 when things were

very, very different in Glenville. "All this back here was the servant's quarters," explained Famicos Housing Rehab Specialist Mark Smith, as he led me on a tour of the recently renovated house. "The kitchen was a challenge," he said, "We had to figure out to make it fully modern and open, without losing the character of the house." The kitchen is indeed impressive, from sleek white cabinets with brushed nickel hardware, to granite countertops, to the contrast espresso-wood island and breakfast bar. Small touches like an exposed-brick column next to the stove reminded me that I was still in a house built over a century ago.

If you weren't already impressed by the 4 bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms, and 3 fireplaces, surely the custom antique-looking clawfoot soaking tub, rolling barn doors, cedar porch, and hanging lantern globe lights would be enough to make any girl's knees weak. The tour just got better with each floor I ascended. The dining room has dark, original wood



Sleek, modern kitchen.

paneling and crown molding. The staircase maintains its beautiful wood railings and, on the landing, I spied a window bench. As we headed for the second staircase, Mark joked, "I saved the best part for last..."



Original wood railing and window bench.

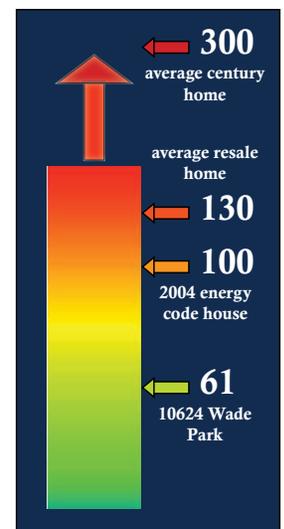
"What, the attic?" I asked. And then I saw it. It was like walking into a nineteenth century ballroom: tall ceiling, huge open space, wood floor, beautiful hanging light fixtures, complete with a wet bar and sink. "Amazing," I sighed.

The renovation took 5 months and the quality of the work has allowed for an application for a nomination of a Historical Preservation award, given by the Cleveland Restoration Society. Famicos Project Manager Lothario Marchmon is particularly proud of the house's 5-star-plus energy rating. "For a new house, that would be a good-to-average rating but for a hundred-year-old house that's as big as it is, that's an excellent rating," he said. "In Famicos' 49 years of building and renovating houses, this is our first 5-star-plus house." The Home Energy Rating System (HERS) Index is the industry standard by which a home's energy efficiency is measured. According to numbers determined by the US Department of Energy, a house that was built to the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) standards of 2004 would have a HERS number of 100. An average resale house would have a HERS rating of 130. However, houses built before 1950



10624 Wade Park Ave, built 1904.

have an average rating of 300, with the number rising higher, the older the house gets. The lower the HERS number, the lower the yearly cost to heat and cool the house and the lower the water bill will be. When the 10624 Wade Park Ave house was assessed, it scored an incredible 61 on the HERS scale, making it 69% more energy efficient than a typical home for resale. Potential owners John & Nancy Mudry (pictured with Mr. Marchmon) are thrilled with their newly renovated, historically preserved, and energy efficient home. They are moving to Glenville to be close to their daughter, who also lives in a century home nearby.



The HERS Index measures a home's energy efficiency.

AVAILABLE PROPERTIES

916 Herrick Rd, Cleveland, OH 44108
3 beds 1.5 baths 1,674 sqft
Beautifully Restored Century Home
\$180,500

Move right in to this completely renovated 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath Colonial nestled in a highly sought after and revitalized neighborhood, conveniently located near University Circle, Cultural Gardens, Case Western Reserve and Uptown! This home boasts the perfect combination of original charm & modern updates showcasing the refinished hardwood floors, plush carpet, fresh neutral paint & updated kitchen with new cabinets, subway tile backsplash, granite counters, tile floors and included energy star rated appliances. Lovely living room w/ fireplace, sunroom w/ french doors & formal dining room. Both bathrooms were fully remodeled with modern finishes. The laundry room is conveniently located on the second floor along w/ 2 cozy bedrooms, 2nd sunroom and a spacious 3rd floor bedroom, ideal for a private suite, playroom or office! The full, clean unfinished basement has a brand new Energy Star Rated HVAC Systems, new hot water tank & supplies tons of storage space along with the new two car garage! New Concrete Service Walk & Driveway. 1 year home warranty included, a 15 year tax abatement maybe available & buyers may be eligible for the Greater Circle Living \$30,000.00 forgivable loan program!



1468 E 111th St
Cleveland, OH 44106
3 beds 2.5 baths 1,554 sqft
New Construction
\$220,000

Exceptionally well built, by the same builder of the gorgeous rehabbed Heritage Homes on East 105! Famicos Foundation is committed to the improvement and stabilization of this beautiful historic neighborhood with a plan to build or rehab over 50 homes in the near future. Be a part of this AMAZING REVITALIZATION of the area just north of University Circle. Walking distance to the campus, VA and University Hospitals, and great cultural amenities and eateries! Qualified for Greater Circle Living Grant and County Neighborhood Reinvestment Program.

9629 Thorn Ave, Cleveland, OH 44108
4 beds 2.5 baths 1,748 sqft
Beautifully Restored Century Home
\$185,900

Spacious 4 bedroom Colonial, fully restored, combining original character with modern finishes, inside & out! A new roof was installed in April 2017 and the home has all new Energy Star mechanicals and updated kitchen and baths. Conveniently located Near University Circle, Cultural Gardens, Case Western Reserve and Uptown. One year home warranty included, a 15 year tax abatement available & buyers may be eligible for the Greater Circle Living \$10,000.00 down payment assistance program!

