

# THE FOUNDATION

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF FAMICOS FOUNDATION



## A HEALTHIER INNER CITY

### The Multi-Faceted Approach to Health Equity

#### In this Issue

1

Feature Story

2

From the Director's Desk

3

Hough Renaissance

4

Health Equity Strategy  
(cover story continued)

5

Health Equity: Life-Saving Training

6

Spotlight on Seniors  
Employee Spotlight

7

Small Business Spotlight:  
ThirdSpace Reading Room

8

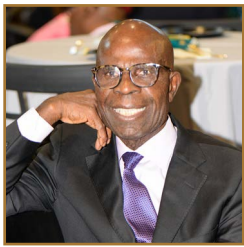
Available Properties



Students at Wade Park Elementary School work together to plant eight new trees at the school (September 2022). Photo courtesy of Cleveland Clinic.

Trees are essential to healthy neighborhoods, contributing to both physical and mental well-being. Trees reduce up to 60% of street-level air pollution and remove pollutants from water and soil as well. Trees reduce the "urban heat island" effect, lowering ambient temperatures by 20-45° F. They produce safer, more walkable streets which then leads to more successful business districts and a reduction in crime. In short, healthy communities have a good amount of tree cover. **Famicos Foundation**, in partnership with the **Cleveland Clinic** and the **Cleveland Tree Coalition** have been working to re-populate Cleveland's lost trees while educating on the importance of trees in sustainability.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Dear friends,

Growth and change, one person and one family at a time, are hallmarks of Famicos Foundation's history and mission. The pandemic spotlighted needs in high poverty areas that motivated us to grow to better respond to those needs. Our new Community

Health Workers and Digital Navigators are bringing desperately needed digital and health resources to our neighborhoods through individual need assessment and direct service. We are grateful to the **State of Ohio Department of Health** for choosing us as a grantee for their first ever **Ohio Health Improvement Zones** grant that empowers us to expand our current health care offerings city-wide (see page 4 for more details). Our thanks also goes to **Cleveland Neighborhood Progress** for choosing Famicos for a second year of funding for the **Neighbor to Neighbor Digital Inclusion** program.

All who attended our **Hough Renaissance Fundraiser** had a blast and folks went all out with their Roaring 1920's outfits! We had a great night, honored some truly wonderful people, and surpassed our fundraising goal of \$100,000 for our operating expenses. I thank all who attended our annual event.

I would also like to thank the Board of Directors for surprising my family and I by creating a new fund in honor of my mother Anna Ezinma Anoliefo who recently passed away at the age of 101. You can read more about the fund and what it supports on the right side of this page.

Our **Community Building and Engagement** and **Homeownership Resource Center** teams had a busy fall filled with Community Resource Fairs, Vaccine Clinics, and a Housing Stability Fair. Our staff is now gearing up to meet the holiday needs of seniors and single-parent families in our neighborhoods. There are many ways to help Cleveland families in need this holiday season: you can donate to our **Toys 4 Tots** or **Tech 4 Tweens** programs which provide kids with gifts for Christmas, or donate **winter coats and boots** to our chronically homeless residents or to neighborhood children.

We humbly approach this year's holiday season with gratitude and joy. Like you, we are delighted that families and friends can once again gather to celebrate. We count you, our friends, partners and donors, among our greatest blessings, the ones who enable us to be present to and assist those who need us most. We wish blessings, peace and good will to all of you and your families.

In service,  
John O. Anoliefo, Executive Director

<https://famicos.org/donate>



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Laura Junglas, PRESIDENT  
Peter Lee, VICE PRESIDENT  
John J. Weiss, SECRETARY  
Ryan Siebel, TREASURER  
Carol Brandt, SND  
Christian Carson  
Charles Hall  
Randa Jackson  
Keisha L. Johnson  
Geoffrey Ledwidge  
Christian F. Moratschek  
Akeem Perry  
Theresa Sutton  
Joseph H. Weiss, Jr.  
Joan Gallagher, CSA, TRUSTEE EMERITUS  
Catherine Kasperski, TRUSTEE EMERITUS  
Richard Weaver, TRUSTEE EMERITUS  
John O. Anoliefo, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### FAMICOS BOARD ANNOUNCES OBI-OMA FUND



Anna Ezinma Anoliefo  
at age 102.

From the beginning of our 52-year history, Famicos has helped Hough and Glenville families with one-time emergency needs caused by tragedies. When a neighborhood child is killed by gunshot and their family can't afford funeral expenses or a family's house has a fire and they don't have insurance to replace their household items, Famicos is there to help. This isn't something we boast about doing, it's just something we do.

The Famicos Board of Directors chose to honor the passing of Anna Ezinma Anoliefo, mother of our Executive Director John O. Anoliefo by establishing a special fund in her memory. The fund name **Obi-Oma** is the Nigerian word for kind heart – a fitting tribute to Anna E. Anoliefo and a match to the mission of Famicos Foundation. The Board Resolution reads:

*The Obi-Oma Fund in Memory of Anna Ezinma Anoliefo is established on October 8, 2022 at Famicos Foundation to assist families in the Famicos service area with expenses due to a one-time tragedy such as funerals and natural disasters. We establish this fund in the spirit and memory of Anna Ezinma Anoliefo who lived a long and exemplary life marked by wisdom and a kind heart.*

Gifts to the fund may be made online or by check. Please note your donation for "The Obi-Oma Fund."



# HOUGH RENAISSANCE

## Famicos Annual Fundraiser



President of Cleveland Neighborhood Progress Tania Menesse, winner of the 2022 Visionary Award (Hough, September 2022).

Famicos' Hough Renaissance Fundraiser was a roaring success! Residents, staff, and guests joined together in their finest 1920's "glad rags" for a night of fun, food, and fundraising. The goal for Famicos' only fundraiser for the year was \$100,000, which was surpassed thanks to our generous supporters and sponsors. The Annual Fundraiser supports Operating Costs of the organization which has seen unprecedented growth over the past two years and now sits at 55 employees in three office locations.

The event also honored several partners with awards. The Visionary Award was given to **Tania Menesse**, President of **Cleveland Neighborhood Progress** for her years of service to the Cleveland community development landscape. You can read more about Partnership Award winner **Case Western Reserve University** on the next page. Finally, **Joe Weiss, Jr.**, founding Board Member and first cousin to Famicos Foundress Sr. Henrietta Gorris was presented with the Legacy Award. We are grateful to all our donors and partners who support us throughout the year!

**Visionary Award: Tania Menesse**  
President, Cleveland Neighborhood Progress

**Partnership Award:**  
**Case Western Reserve University**

**Legacy Award: Joseph Weiss, Jr.**  
Famicos Board Member

## Health, Housing & Hiring Fair



**DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> 10 AM - 4 PM**

**EAST PROFESSIONAL CENTER**  
**1349 E 79<sup>TH</sup> ST**

Health Screenings & Vaccines  
Housing Stability Resources  
On-Site Financial Coaching  
Employment Opportunities  
Legal Expungement Clinic  
Rental & Utility Assistance

**PREREGISTER ONLINE FOR  
FASTER SERVICE FOR  
HOUSING STABILITY  
ASSISTANCE**



*Continued from cover...*



Students at Wade Park Elementary School learn about trees, air quality, and environmental sustainability (September 2022).

In September, staff from **Famicos**, **Cleveland Clinic**, and **Bartlett Tree** guided students from **Wade Park Elementary School** in Hough in planting eight trees at the school. The students learned about the essential role of trees in an urban environment while planting and watering the new trees. "This is the second school we've planted trees at with this program," said Director of Community Building & Engagement Erica Burnett, "We did **Willson Elementary** last year and next year, we'll be going to **Mary B Martin Elementary**."

Famicos also has food-growing gardens at **Michael R White** and **Mary M Bethune Elementary Schools** in Glenville, where students get hands-on lessons on the food growing cycle and nutrition. Horticulture education programs at Famicos community gardens have been funded by the **USDA**, **Mt Sinai Foundation**, and the **Sears-Swetland Foundation**. Famicos has also been running the **Gateway105 Farmer's Market** (1322 E 105<sup>th</sup> St) in Glenville, open Fridays and Saturdays. Produce grown at Famicos' food gardens are sold at the market, which accepts WIC, SNAP, and Ohio EBT. These tree and garden efforts are part of a larger **Health Equity Strategy** that Famicos is implementing.

[www.gateway105.com](http://www.gateway105.com)

## HEALTH EQUITY STRATEGY

Last year, Famicos worked with a group of pre-med students at **Case Western Reserve University (CWRU)** to develop a **Health Equity Strategy** for the Glenville, Hough, and St Clair-Superior neighborhoods. In addition to Famicos' current work in the areas of Lead Hazard Reduction, Vaccine Hesitancy, and Food Access, the Strategy also identified Opioid Addiction and Maternal and Infant Care as urgent health needs in our service area. Once the Strategy was completed, Famicos applied for an inaugural **Ohio Health Improvement Zones** grant from the **Ohio Department of Health** to implement an action plan laid out in the Strategy. One of only three grantees in Cuyahoga County, Famicos was awarded \$200,000 for our Health Equity work. "We are thrilled to have received this grant," said Famicos Director of Marketing Tara Mowery. "We could not have won this award without the partnership and relationship we have with Case," explained Mowery at the Famicos Annual Fundraiser, where Case Western Reserve University was presented with Famicos' 2022 Partnership Award.

With these grant funds, Famicos has hired two Community Health Workers and plans to expand health programming to include education and resources for opioid addiction and maternal and infant care. Last year, CWRU also donated 1,000 health kits to Famicos and helped Famicos create a series of videos on the COVID vaccine in three different languages (English, Chinese, and Arabic). CWRU will continue to partner with Famicos in the coming year, providing pop-up vaccine clinics, dental screenings and denture cleanings for seniors, and educational materials for new moms.



L to R: CWRU Asst VP of Government & Community Relations Julian Rogers, Famicos Director of Marketing Tara Mowery, and CWRU Director of Community Based Experiences Dr. Jesse Honsky (Sept 2022).



# LIFE-SAVING TRAINING

## Narcan Training and Kits Could Save Lives



Instructor Setti Richardson trains Famicos Property Managers and Maintenance staff on opioid addiction, fentanyl testing, and the use of naloxone (Narcan) in an emergency overdose situation (November 2022).

Ohio has the 5<sup>th</sup> highest death-rate due to drug overdose out of all the States (CDC, 2020 data). "It's not just a young person thing," said Famicos Community Health Worker Annetta Watts, "it's affecting people of all ages, including seniors and we know it's hitting Black communities particularly hard." Although opioid-related deaths have climbed for all Americans over the past ten years, the death rate experienced by Black Americans climbed three times higher than the death rate for White Americans<sup>1</sup>. "We're seeing it in our own neighborhoods and our own buildings," said Watts. Scheduling life-saving Narcan training was one of the first things Watts did when she started at Famicos in September.

Famicos has held three trainings so far, one for Hough residents and two for Famicos' own Property Management and Maintenance staff. Residents were given naloxone (Narcan), fentanyl test strips, and information cards and received hands-on training on how to recognize when someone might be experiencing an overdose and how to administer Narcan to that person. Kits and education were provided by the **Cleveland Urban Minority Alcoholism Drug Abuse Outreach Project**, the **Ohio Department of Health**, and **MetroHealth's Project DAWN**. In the new year, we plan to install Narcan boxes in all Famicos buildings and bring the training to other subsidized apartment buildings on Cleveland's east side.

<sup>1</sup>February 2022 study by NYU Grossman School of Medicine and Wake Forest University School of Medicine (Townsend et al., *American Journal of Epidemiology*, Volume 191, Issue 4).

# SPOTLIGHT ON SENIORS

## Eating Well to Maintain Health



Doan Classroom resident Dava Jarrells plays nutrition bingo (August 2022).

Doan Classroom residents participated in the **Crisis Chronic Health and Acute Prevention (CCHAP) program** that specializes in providing home delivered meals and medical nutrition therapy to seniors with chronic or acute health conditions. The residents were actively engaged in conversations about good food and good health. Ann Hornsby, RDN, CDCES, presented vital information that heightened the residents' awareness of how healthy food choices can lead to well-being and improved overall health, especially when living with ongoing health conditions.

During this session, the Food Ambassador presentation featured:

- Cooking demo for healthy, budget-friendly recipes that residents can prepare at home
- Education on ways to shop and cook healthier to improve their overall health
- Medicare expert answered questions on Medicare

All the residents enjoyed a healthy meal prepared at this session. They left excited with knowledge to try preparing some of the foods that would help them to control diabetes, hypertension, coronary heart disease, and other chronic conditions.

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## New Directors Bring Fresh Perspective

This Fall, Famicos Foundation has added two new Directors to its Senior Staff. Michelle Anderson, Director of Human Resources, earned her MBA from Baldwin Wallace and has worked in the manufacturing, academic, and nonprofit sectors as well as affordable housing. Michelle has a passion for empowering underserved communities. With Famicos' recent growth to 55 staff members, Michelle is already hard at work implementing strategic HR initiatives to attract and retain top-tier workers. "My job is to help staff be their best professional selves and to aid in developing a high-performing team culture," said Michelle. "I am excited to work with the extraordinary and gifted staff at Famicos, under the visionary John Anoliefo."

New Director of Property Portfolio Management Alia Carter also says she enjoys working with her fellow staff. "I have the opportunity to work with so many talented people in different departments to achieve the same goal - to help people," she said. Originally from Pittsburgh, Alia moved from a for-profit development company in Georgia to work with Famicos. "My heart is really in affordable housing."

Famicos is always looking for passionate and accomplished professionals to join our team. See open positions on our website or on Indeed.

[famicos.org/careers](https://famicos.org/careers)



Famicos Director of Human Resources Michelle Anderson (November 2022).



# SMALL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

## ThirdSpace Reading Room opens at The Madison



Manager Harry Atwell at the newly opened ThirdSpace Reading Room, housed on the first floor of The Madison apartments on E 105<sup>th</sup> St.

Room has events throughout the year that provide opportunities for the community to come together, interact, and mingle. They have intergenerational lunches on Fridays, June through September, and Freedom Friday on the last Friday of the month. If you are in the neighborhood, stop by and take a look around. Atwell would be happy to meet you. "I enjoy meeting the people. The ThirdSpace Reading Room is here for the community, and you are more than welcome to come look around. We are open 12 pm – 4 pm Tuesday through Saturday, but I tell people if the door is open you can come in!"

### GLENVILLE ARTS, HISTORY & CULTURE

Famicos Executive Director John Anoliefo says the bookstore is a welcome addition to the **Glenville Arts Campus**, a collection of three adjacent buildings owned by Famicos on E 105<sup>th</sup> St. "We're excited to see the Glenville Arts Campus being used to lift up Black art, history, and culture, as that was the vision for this campus" he said. **The Madison** hosts **ThirdSpace Action Lab**, a place for creative placemaking to actualize racial equity, and the **ThirdSpace Reading Room**, while the single-story building next to it, known as **Studio105**, hosts a number of art education programs offered by the **Center for Arts-Inspired Learning**. Next to that is a two-story blue house, known as **Twelve House**, which currently houses **Twelve Literary Arts**, a non-profit that supports poetry and spoken word for inner-city youth.

Walk into the first floor of **The Madison** apartment building and you will be greeted by a warm smile and the soft sounds of music. Harry Atwell stands behind the counter welcoming you to the **ThirdSpace Reading Room**. Atwell is the Community Manager of the newest bookstore in Glenville. The Reading Room opened in June of 2022, on the ground floor of The Madison (1464 E 105<sup>th</sup> St). The Madison, previously the **Medical Arts Building**, was renovated by Famicos Foundation in 2018, and is now owned and operated by Famicos as a market-rate apartment building with commercial space on the first floor. Staying true to its roots, the Medical Arts Building was renamed The Madison after the original building's architect, Robert Madison.

The ThirdSpace Reading Room was created with the purpose of giving back to the community and providing access to books. They offer a wide variety of books and welcome donations. Many of the books have been sourced through donations, some of those being donated by the **Cleveland Foundation** and the **Cleveland Public Library**. Atwell says local writer's books are welcome too.

Truly a space for the community, the Third Space Reading Room has events throughout the year that provide opportunities for the community to come together, interact, and mingle. They have intergenerational lunches on Fridays, June through September, and Freedom Friday on the last Friday of the month. If you are in the neighborhood, stop by and take a look around. Atwell would be happy to meet you. "I enjoy meeting the people. The ThirdSpace Reading Room is here for the community, and you are more than welcome to come look around. We are open 12 pm – 4 pm Tuesday through Saturday, but I tell people if the door is open you can come in!"

"We're planning to extend the arts and culture focus of the Glenville Arts Campus over to our restoration of St Mark's on East Blvd," said Anoliefo. **St Mark's Church**, located one street over from the Glenville Arts Campus, was an important location for various civil rights groups who met there throughout the late 1960's advocating for workers rights, school desegregation, and voter mobilization. "Currently, Glenville has no event space that is affordable to residents. We're going to create an event space, a party space, a performance space where the residents of Glenville can go to have a wedding reception or see a jazz band." Famicos is now raising funds for a full restoration of the historically and culturally significant building. Construction will begin in 2023 and the building will become **St Mark's Family Center**.

## AVAILABLE TO RENT

# THE MADISON<sup>®</sup>

**\$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

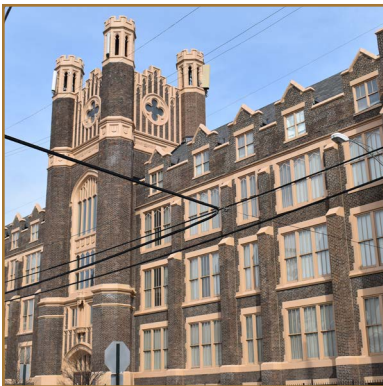


**1464 E 105th St, Cleveland**

[famicos.org/madison](http://famicos.org/madison)

## FOR SENIORS & DISABLED

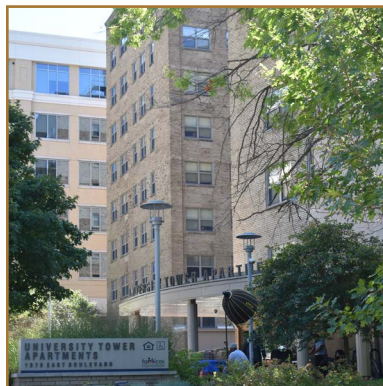
### NOTRE DAME APARTMENTS



**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.

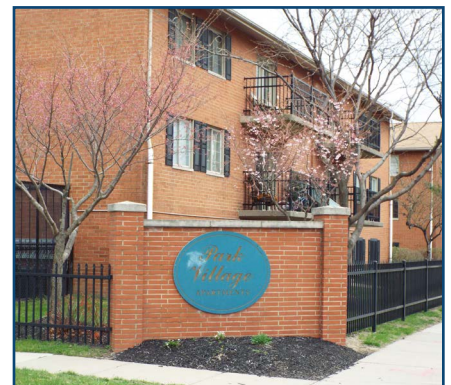
### UNIVERSITY TOWER APARTMENTS



**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.

**famicos**  
**FOUNDATION**

*Building Homes. Restoring Hope.*

1325 Ansel Road  
Cleveland, OH 44106  
t. 216-791-6476  
[famicos.org](http://famicos.org)  
[@famicos](https://www.facebook.com/famicos)

**NeighborWorks<sup>®</sup>**  
**CHARTERED MEMBER**