OAK
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

March 2, 2015

Dear Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature:

I would like to express my strong support for the *"Every Child Deserves A Champion"* Program submitted by Famicos Foundation, O.A.K. Leadership Institute, the Good Community Foundation, and Beech Brook.

This program is important to me because WE REALLY NEED A NEW beginning. OUR teens not to mention parents need and wants to be more productive in our communities. This is the first step to rebuilding the Hough area. Oak Leadership is the start of our new foundation in this area. With the help of our parents and students we can rebuild this community. Make this be a start to a new and much needed future for us, not to mention those who are up and coming.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature is providing with this grant, and I again, strongly recommend the awarding of the Community Connectors grant to Famicos Foundation. If I may be of any other assistance, please contact me at 216.832.3868.

Sincerely,

Brian C Myers Sr.

8610 Hough Avenue • Cleveland, Ohio 44106 • 216.229.7178

OAK
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

March 2, 2015

Dear Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature:

I would like to express my strong support for the "*Every Child Deserves A Champion*" Program submitted by Famicos Foundation, O.A.K. Leadership Institute, the Good Community Foundation, and Beech Brook.

This program is important to me because I want to get in the program it is anpartan for you so if you go in the progran you got to be on your best behaver you have to be on a good color if you get on a dad color or you get supendit you cann't go to the progran.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature is providing with this grant, and I again, strongly recommend the awarding of the Community Connectors grant to Famicos Foundation. If I may be of any other assistance, please contact me at A plase where you at.

Sincerely,

(from a 2nd grader that clearly overheard his 4th 5th grade family discuss the program. He has a sibling in 5th grade) :)

8610 Hough Avenue • Cleveland, Ohio 44106 • 216.229.7178

March 2, 2015

Dear Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature:

I would like to express my strong support for the "Every Child Deserves A Champion" Program submitted by Famicos Foundation, O.A.K. Leadership Institue, the Hood.

This program is imporant to me because. It will help my kids learn more and better. cause if there is something my kids may not understand as well as myself, I would want to get help they need. because the school work is so diffent and as a parent I may not under stand the work ~~but~~ that's why I think this program will be imporant. Lets help each other out verses passing a student that really dont understand.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature is providing with this grant, and I again, strongly recommend the awarding

of the community Connectors grant to Famicos Foundation. If I may be of any other assistance, please contact me at (216) 240-0570

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Jones

OAK
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

March 2, 2015

Dear Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature:

I would like to express my strong support for the *"Every Child Deserves A Champion"* Program submitted by Famicos Foundation, O.A.K. Leadership Institute, the Good Community Foundation, and Beech Brook.

This program is important to me because Oak Leadership Institute has already so far done this for instance: bring together students, families, community organizations; and also addresses the academic and non-academic barriers moving to the success of our children. I am truly enthusiastic by this program (Every Child Deserves a Champion) Program. The teachers very much so inspired me to believe showed me through my son how important this program is to our families, communities, students, and how my son is a champion. I am looking forward to my son passing to the 5th grade in hopes that Oak Leadership have been funded for the (Every Child Deserve a Champion Program) for the community students, parents, and myself to have the tools resources and services →

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature is providing with this grant, and I again, strongly recommend the awarding of the Community Connectors grant to Famicos Foundation. If I may be of any other assistance, please contact me at home (216) 400-7343 or cell (216) 659-3543

turn over

Sincerely,

Virginia Sowell

8610 Hough Avenue • Cleveland, Ohio 44106 • 216.229.7178

which enhance me to be educated in the
life of my child.

OAK
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

March 2, 2015

Dear Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature:

I would like to express my strong support for the *"Every Child Deserves A Champion"* Program submitted by Famicos Foundation, O.A.K. Leadership Institute, the Good Community Foundation, and Beech Brook.

This program is important to me because I whould Love For my girls to have A Champion". I Know the program will be good For them we Living in a neighborhood that don't offer much. OAK Lepdership really work with Are Childrens And Know what best For them. OAK LenderShip do what they can to make our Kids Look up to A better Life. better goals. The program will be important to my Family.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature is providing with this grant, and I again, strongly recommend the awarding of the Community Connectors grant to Famicos Foundation. If I may be of any other assistance, please contact me at 216) 644-3840 (Broadnax).

Sincerely,

OAK
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

March 2, 2015

Dear Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature:

I would like to express my strong support for the *"Every Child Deserves A Champion"* Program submitted by Famicos Foundation, O.A.K. Leadership Institute, the Good Community Foundation, and Beech Brook.

This program is important to me because the Students are getting the nesscary help in all areas to be come very successful in life

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature is providing with this grant, and I again, strongly recommend the awarding of the Community Connectors grant to Famicos Foundation. If I may be of any other assistance, please contact me at (216) 376-8903.

Sincerely, Christy Barnes

8610 Hough Avenue • Cleveland, Ohio 44106 • 216.229.7178

OAK
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

March 2, 2015

Dear Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature:

I would like to express my strong support for the *"Every Child Deserves A Champion"* Program submitted by Famicos Foundation, O.A.K. Leadership Institute, the Good Community Foundation, and Beech Brook.

This program is important to me because It helps further their education it strengthens their brains and helps them cope emotionally. I think it's a very good decison for the children academically. I think also that it helps them prepare for their future.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature is providing with this grant, and I again, strongly recommend the awarding of the Community Connectors grant to Famicos Foundation. If I may be of any other assistance, please contact me at 216-309-3159 (Ms. Teona Townsend)

Sincerely,

OAK
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

March 2, 2015

Dear Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature:

I would like to express my strong support for the *"Every Child Deserves A Champion"* Program submitted by Famicos Foundation, O.A.K. Leadership Institute, the Good Community Foundation, and Beech Brook.

This program is important to me because it will help my children with their education and helps the School with funding

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature is providing with this grant, and I again, strongly recommend the awarding of the Community Connectors grant to Famicos Foundation. If I may be of any other assistance, please contact me at _____.

Sincerely,

8610 Hough Avenue • Cleveland, Ohio 44106 • 216.229.7178

OAK
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

March 2, 2015

Dear Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature:

I would like to express my strong support for the *"Every Child Deserves A Champion"* Program submitted by Famicos Foundation, O.A.K. Leadership Institute, the Good Community Foundation, and Beech Brook.

This program is important to me because I have 4 Kids that can greatly benefit from the services that come from this program we live in the inner city and more Kids use this guidance hopefully it will deter them from getting into trobule and keep even more positive role-models around.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature is providing with this grant, and I again, strongly recommend the awarding of the Community Connectors grant to Famicos Foundation. If I may be of any other assistance, please contact me at (216) 862-8814 (Jones).

Sincerely,

Oak Leadership Institute

March 2nd , 2015

Dear Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature:

I would like to express my strong support for the "Every Child Deserves A Champion" Program submitted by Famicos Foundation, Oak Leadership Institute , the Good Community Foundation, and Beech Brook.

This program is important to me because it allows our children to connect with their peers and mentors on a deeper level to ensure their success. By being more in tuned with the students and their everyday struggles and surroundings it also encourages teachers to help students build a stronger foundation at home. Incorporating positivity in all areas of our children's lives will help them feel uplifted and confident in every situation. Uplifting and interacting with our children more with in their school life will create a sense of resiliency which will be unbreakable. Help us help our children even more to desire to succeed in a field such as yours or your peers. We need more politicians, doctors, lawyers, governors and outstanding citizens to continue the growth of our nation after we are long gone. Let that be "our" children because "Every Child Deserves A Champion".

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature is providing with this grant and I strongly recommend the awarding of the Community Connectors grant to Famicos Foundation. If I may be of any other assistance, please contact me at 216-303-4893.

Sincerely,

Ashley L. Griffin

OAK
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

March 2, 2015

Dear Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature:

I would like to express my strong support for the *"Every Child Deserves A Champion"* Program submitted by Famicos Foundation, O.A.K. Leadership Institute, the Good Community Foundation, and Beech Brook.

This program is important to me because not only do our children who attend this school but the parents need outreach services. A lot of parents need additional services that are not provided traditionally in order help to keep our children on task to becoming successful. If we as parents can receive these services without stipulations of income, or housing demographics it would lead to self-sufficient homes and build our neighborhoods up instead of tearing them down mentally. Most children and parents are burdened due to not enough programs and aid in our schools and neighborhood. I am but one of the families who gets help from Oak Leadership institute because I can't afford daycare or pay for the mental services out of pocket for my son and grandson as well as myself. They have helped the children in their school with uniforms, coats, hats and gloves for the winter. Even providing transportation for some of the families. Being able to be a part of the school has been one of the best things and a high point in my life. I have become more confident in myself as well as my children and grandson. I have come to think of them as family and not just as an educational institution.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature is providing with this grant, and I again, strongly recommend the awarding of the Community Connectors grant to Famicos Foundation. If I may be of any other assistance, please contact me at 216-303-3350 or 216-987-6677.

Sincerely,

I'la Jean Taylor

8610 Hough Avenue • Cleveland, Ohio 44106 • 216.229.7178

OAK
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

March 2, 2015

Dear Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature:

I would like to express my strong support for the *"Every Child Deserves A Champion"* Program submitted by Famicos Foundation, O.A.K. Leadership Institute, the Good Community Foundation, and Beech Brook.

This program is important to me because they can get a better understanding in what they are reading. Reading is very important in life. I strongly know, a reading a-thon is a good idea.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature is providing with this grant, and I again, strongly recommend the awarding of the Community Connectors grant to Famicos Foundation. If I may be of any other assistance, please contact me at 216-543-1757 (Pettis).

Sincerely,

OAK
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

March 2, 2015

Dear Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature:

I would like to express my strong support for the *"Every Child Deserves A Champion"* Program submitted by Famicos Foundation, O.A.K. Leadership Institute, the Good Community Foundation, and Beech Brook.

This program is important to me because it gives my Children and others a Chance to step outside the box. Alot of ppl grew up without out someone to show them how to be Champions this program will be the push and a stepping stone to show Children that there not alone. I'm glad that someone has Even thought enough to want to guide our futures into the Future. It's about that time that we show our Children how not to just do things but how to do things in a Certian way. I would love for my Child to be apart of this program.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature is providing with this grant, and I again, strongly recommend the awarding of the Community Connectors grant to Famicos Foundation. If I may be of any other assistance, please contact me at 216-526-8757 (Catrina Burrows)

Sincerely,

OAK
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

March 2, 2015

Dear Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature:

I would like to express my strong support for the "*Every Child Deserves A Champion*" Program submitted by Famicos Foundation, O.A.K. Leadership Institute, the Good Community Foundation, and Beech Brook.

This program is important to me because OAK Leadership will be able to help my kids academically because I'm a single parent in school obtaining my G.E.D and work a job 5pm - 1am the program will be able to tutor them will I'm unavailable.

Thank You
Charlene Santin

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature is providing with this grant, and I again, strongly recommend the awarding of the Community Connectors grant to Famicos Foundation. If I may be of any other assistance, please contact me at (216) 233-4942.

Sincerely,

8610 Hough Avenue • Cleveland, Ohio 44106 • 216.229.7178

OAK
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

March 2, 2015

Dear Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature:

I would like to express my strong support for the *"Every Child Deserves A Champion"* Program submitted by Famicos Foundation, O.A.K. Leadership Institute, the Good Community Foundation, and Beech Brook.

This program is important to me because OAK leadership is always there to help me or my kids at anytime. I'm a single parent and my kids be needing extra help like me. I know with the "Every Child Deserves A Champion" Program will give them the extra help that they need ~~academic~~ academics & can't give them cause I would be at work by 5pm.

Thank You
Charlene Sumlin

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature is providing with this grant, and I again, strongly recommend the awarding of the Community Connectors grant to Famicos Foundation. If I may be of any other assistance, please contact me at (216)233-4542.

Sincerely,

OAK
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

March 2, 2015

Dear Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature:

I would like to express my strong support for the *"Every Child Deserves A Champion"* Program submitted by Famicos Foundation, O.A.K. Leadership Institute, the Good Community Foundation, and Beech Brook.

This program is important to me because it gives the children in this neighborhood ~~to~~ something to look forward to. A beginning of a new way of life, something that "gets them" out of becoming a product of their environment. These children "not all" but some come from homes where the parents have no education, are not really concerned if the children do, but when the children are surrounded by strong, educated, "willing to" help them "people" they migrate to them. The adults in this community won't need that "Champion" not only for the children but for our selves.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature is providing with this grant, and I again, strongly recommend the awarding of the Community Connectors grant to Famicos Foundation. If I may be of any other assistance, please contact me at 216-346-4445.

Sincerely,

Brenda Walker

8610 Hough Avenue • Cleveland, Ohio 44106 • 216.229.7178

OAK
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

March 2, 2015

Dear Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature:

I would like to express my strong support for the *"Every Child Deserves A Champion"* Program submitted by Famicos Foundation, O.A.K. Leadership Institute, the Good Community Foundation, and Beech Brook.

This program is important to me because Kids need more things to do with themself, parnets need to be able to learn thing to help there kids and the people.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature is providing with this grant, and I again, strongly recommend the awarding of the Community Connectors grant to Famicos Foundation. If I may be of any other assistance, please contact me at (216) 999-7365.

Sincerely, Dashie Hogg

8610 Hough Avenue • Cleveland, Ohio 44106 • 216.229.7178

OAK
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

March 2, 2015

Dear Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature:

I would like to express my strong support for the "*Every Child Deserves A Champion*" Program submitted by Famicos Foundation, O.A.K. Leadership Institute, the Good Community Foundation, and Beech Brook.

This program is important to me because It will help me help my children become well educated, Black successful people in our community. The center will help all kid work in different areas that will help them to be successful people in life. A community is a family and family stick together. Thank You.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature is providing with this grant, and I again, strongly recommend the awarding of the Community Connectors grant to Famicos Foundation. If I may be of any other assistance, please contact me at Latrice Hugley.

Sincerely,

Latrice Hugley (216) 450-4154
(216) 761-6496

8610 Hough Avenue • Cleveland, Ohio 44106 • 216.229.7178

3-2-2015

To Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature,

I would like to express my strong support for the "*Every Child Deserves a Champion*" Program submitted by Famicos Foundation, O.A.K. Leadership Institute, the Good Community Foundation, and Beech Brook.

This program is important to me because I have seen the growth and progress of my two great nephews ages 6 and 8. They have been students there since the establishment of the school. The instructors are so professional and teach the students at an age appropriate level that engages their inquisitiveness and eagerness to learn.

One aspect of this funding that would be advantageous to the school would be to obtain male mentors for the boys and female mentors for the girls. This would fulfill the vision of *Building a Community of Champions*. The vision stated that each student would receive a mentor and school advisor. This program implementation would definitely ensure that the five core principles as outlined in the CC Grant would be attainable and beneficial to the students.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that you all are providing with this grant, and I again, strongly recommend the awarding of the Community Connectors grant to Famicos Foundation. If I may be of any other assistance, please feel free to contact me at 216-431-8183.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marcia Jones-Johnson

Great aunt to I'Shun Patterson and Roland Jones

OAK
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

February 24, 2015

Dear Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature:

As an Ohio educator, I would like to express my strong support for the "Every Child Deserves A Champion" Program submitted by Famicos Foundation, O.A.K. Leadership Institute, Good Community Foundation, Lee Road Baptist Church and Beech Brook.

This program is important to me because it would give under privileged children in our school community an opportunity to experience life-changing activities. It seems very likely that participating in these programs will lead to both short-term and long-term student success. In the long-term, these activities will likely translate into participating individuals giving back to their communities who have socio-economic needs. Second, having a chance to act as a mentee will very likely foster successful outcomes in the near future as they enter the Ohio workforce. Third, these individuals will likely have a secondary positive influence on siblings and family. Equal to the long-term successful outcomes for the designated schools in this grant, may be the short-term positive outcomes.

It may take many different social, behavioral, and academic initiatives to see positive school and community outcomes. It seems very likely that participation in the "Every Child Deserves a Champion" student mentorship program will lead to some immediate successful outcomes. First, when parents and their children alike have access to high quality successful mentorship coaching; the sponsorship may not only promote a positive influence on the children, but the parents may be positively affected, as well. This, in turn may promote positive role model influence throughout the community. Also, children in this program may have the motivation they have been missing in order to strive for current academic success. When a student does not have a social stimulus to succeed, the result seems to be just to do the minimum to stay out of trouble, or not to succeed at all. Therefore, the participation in this program is likely to promote a well-rounded positive outcome.

In closing, I wish to strongly reiterate the great benefits of "Every Child Deserves a Champion" program for the above-defined schools. Not only will this program have a positive affect on the student's now, it is very likely to make lasting changes in our Ohio communities.

Cordially,

Kevin W. Banks
Intervention Specialist

8610 Hough Avenue • Cleveland, Ohio 44106 • 216.229.7178

OAK
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

March 4, 2015

Dear Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature:

OAK Leadership Institute is a public charter school that puts a high emphasis on education. The children are held accountable for their actions that could affect their educational and personal growth. With the "Every Child Deserves a Champion" Mentoring Program, the children will have a chance to experience life from a positive viewpoint, and learn that a good education sets a strong foundation for growth. By opening our doors to the community, the children will have more positive adults to help them through their daily struggles to become a successful lifetime learner.

I am a teacher with 20 plus years of teaching experience and have observed the positive sides to a mentoring program. I am a firm believer that by awarding the Community Connectors grant to Famicos Foundation to develop and implement the "Every Child Deserves a Champion" Mentoring Program at OAK Leadership Institute, you are allowing our children to dream of a better life, because someone cares.

Sincerely,

Mary Kypriandes

Mary Kypriandes
Second Grade Teacher

8610 Hough Avenue • Cleveland, Ohio 44106 • 216.229.7178

OAK
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

February 24, 2015

Dear Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature:

As an educator, I am very excited at the prospect of having the "Every Child Deserves a Champion" Mentorship Program implemented at OAK Leadership Institute. Since OAK's mission is to "Overcome Anything for Kids", this program, which promotes character building, hope for a positive future, and developing pathways to achievement, is a natural fit and will be invaluable to the outcomes of our students' futures.

The "Every Child Deserves a Champion" Mentor Program is also likely to be highly beneficial with the students and families of the community because of the nature of its design. First, the families and students have "buy-in" because they help guide the process through their own input instead of others telling them what needs to be "done to them". Second, the process begins with S.M.A.R.T. goals that the families are likely to feel are more attainable due to the specific, actionable steps that are built into the design, making the task less daunting as a whole for those families. Other elements that will boost their confidence are the tools, resources, and services that will help the families overcome the financial, mental, emotional, and environmental roadblocks that they and others in the community face every day. Finally, because the families will want to know the true value of it, having a third party evaluator gauging the effectiveness of the program will promote the feeling that OAK Leadership and the "Every Child Deserves a Champion" Program are upholding their share of the process.

In closing, I would like to say how very grateful I am for the opportunity that Governor Kasich and the Ohio Legislature are providing with this grant, and would like to strongly endorse the awarding of the Community Connectors grant to the Famicos Foundation. If I may be of any further assistance, please contact me via email at mmcham@oakleadership.org, by phone at 330-620-4185, or by letter at 18128 Fox Road, Doylestown, Ohio 44230.

Sincerely,

Matthew P. McHam

8610 Hough Avenue • Cleveland, Ohio 44106 • 216.229.7178

OAK
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

March 5, 2015

Re: "Every Child Deserves a Champion" Community Connectors Grant

Dear Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature,

My name is Joe Stills and I am a newly elected board member of the O.A.K. Leadership Institute. I am honored to serve on the board of directors of this progressive public charter school. O.A.K. is an example of how at risk children can succeed within a positive environment. I believe the "Every Child Deserves a Champion" program will continue to create a positive environment to ensure the success of all of the students.

Ms. Angela Bennett, O.A.K.'s Superintendent, has made a difference within the lives of our students. Ms. Bennett has created positive partnerships with local social services agency such as Beech Brook and the Cuyahoga County Board of Mental Health. As a result, students are achieving within a positive academic environment. Several of our students have extremely challenging home environments.

Ms. Bennett is a positive role model and a true "Champion" for our students. She has daily dedicated her professional and personal time to the success of her students. This program will reinforces the value of having positive mentors, teachers and parents contributing to the success of a student.

Finally, there is an old African proverb – "It takes a village to raise a child." The "Every Child Deserves a Champion" program is an example of how a village can raise a child to achieve success. It would truly be a worthwhile investment for our children. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (216) 835-9644.

Yours Truly,

Joe Stills

Joe Stills, Board Member
O.A.K. Leadership Institute

CUYAHOGA COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH

YOUR TRUSTED SOURCE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION

February 26, 2015

RE: Letter in Support of "Every Child Deserves A Champion"

Dear Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature:

It is my pleasure to submit this letter in support of the "Every Child Deserves A Champion" Community Connectors Grant application submitted by Famicos Foundation, with its school partner, O.A.K. Leadership Institute.

Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH) has been building a network of partners who utilize a "place-based" approach to engage the community, improve health outcomes and reduce inequities. By defining health to include more than the absence of disease, but to include social conditions such as employment, income, education, physical environment, family, and medical care, we are able to raise the awareness of the significant impact policies, plans and decisions can have on a community.

In the Hough community, children are plagued with an overwhelming amount of non-academic barriers to their success. 48.7% of families with children have incomes below the poverty level, compared to 32.3% in the City of Cleveland, and 16.2% in Cuyahoga County. Even the unemployment rate is one-third higher than Cleveland and triple that of Cuyahoga County (18.7, 11.2, and 6.2 respectively). Children in the Hough Community under the age of 18 are victims to child maltreatment at a rate three times of children higher than in Cuyahoga County, and still a third higher than the overall City of Cleveland.[1]

The "Every Child Deserves A Champion" Program will meet the families where they are with the appropriate supports to help them address and overcome the financial, mental, emotional and environmental stresses they face on a daily basis. Empowering families to serve, as the new voices for their community will activate the entire community activated to become more involved in improving the educational opportunities for all children.

In conclusion, I fully support the "Every Child Deserves a Champion" Program submitted by Famicos Foundation as they seek funding to help students and their families in the Hough community lead a healthy, fulfilling and productive life.

Sincerely,

Claire Boettler

Claire Boettler, MPH, RN
Director, Prevention & Wellness

---

[1] NEO CANDO system, Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development, MSASS, Case Western Reserve University (http://neocando.case.edu).

OAK
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

February 25, 2015

Dear Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature:

I am very excited about the impact that the "Every Child Deserves A Champion" Community Connectors grant proposal will have on the students and families at OAK Leadership Institute. Before Founding MC2 STEM High School and SOLE CLE, I was aware of the impact that mentors can have on the growth of students. What I have learned is the depth of impact that mentorship can have on the mentors and the organizations that support mentors. The "Every Child Deserves A Champion" program excites me because its design represents excellent understanding of the potential of this type of relationship and describes a process that will not only succeed in its proposed community but will have the opportunity to impact the way that mentorship programs operate in the future. The incorporation of the SMART Goal process for parents into the mentorship process will provide a level of focus to the mentoring relationship that will ensure success and should become a model for other mentorship programs to follow.

I will continue to work with OAK Leadership Institute to implement Self Organized Learning Environments (SOLEs) into their school model and I will help the school develop programing that amplifies the effect that this mentoring program will have on all parties involved. OAK Leadership Institute is not required to allocate any funds to this support.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. McClellan

Jeffrey D. McClellan, Ed.D.

Founding Director SOLE_CLE
Jeff.mcclellan.9@gmail.com
Cell Phone: (419) 233-1695
The Halle Building, Suite 1199
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

BLACK SHIELD POLICE ASSOCIATION, INC.

4097 East 131st Street · Cleveland, Ohio 44105
(216) 561-7777

March 4, 2015

RE: Letter in Support of "Every Child Deserves A Champion"

Dear Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature:

It is our pleasure to submit this letter in support of the "Every Child Deserves A Champion" Community Connectors Grant application submitted by Famicos Foundation, with its school partner, O.A.K. Leadership Institute, Good Community Foundation, Lee Road Baptist Church and Beech Brook.

In the Hough community, children are raised in an environment where drug arrests and serious violent crimes offenses are a third higher than in the City of Cleveland. Family instability and child maltreatment have heightened the risk for psychological and behavioral difficulties among our youth, thereby undermining their ability to achieve academic success in school. In fact, in 2008, the rate of child maltreatment of children in the Hough community under the age of 18 per 1,000 was 27.8.[1] That rate is one-third higher than the entire City of Cleveland and triple that of Cuyahoga County and the national estimates. According to the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence Prevention, in 2012, U.S. state and local child protective services estimated that 9.2 per 1,000 children were victims of child maltreatment.[2] These debilitating statistics demonstrate the need for the "Every Child Deserves A Champion" Program in the Hough community.

Founded in 1946, the Black Shield Police Association ("BPSA") is an organization of 350 law enforcement officers dedicated to the promotion of equality, justice, fairness and effectiveness in law enforcement. BPSA is committed to partnering with organizations such as Famicos Foundation, O.A.K. Leadership Institute, Good Community Foundation, Lee Road Baptist Church and Beech Brook in making systemic changes in the community to save our children. Through one-to-one mentoring, providing strengths-based development workshops, and engaging the community in key decision-making opportunities, we are confident that Hough can be transformed into a community where children and families thrive. To that end, we fully support the "Every Child Deserves a Champion" Program submitted by Famicos Foundation as they seek funding to build hope in their students, families and the Hough community.

Sincerely,

Detective Lynn Hampton, President

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[1] NEO CANDO system, Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development, MSASS, Case Western Reserve University (http://neocando.case.edu).

[2] Child maltreatment includes all types of abuse and neglect of a child under the age of 18 by a parent, caregiver, or another person in a custodial role. There are four common types of maltreatment: physical abuse; sexual abuse; emotional abuse; and neglect.

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March 4, 2015

RE: Letter in Support of "Every Child Deserves a Champion"

Dear Governor John R. Kasich and the Ohio Legislature,

As a member of the 100 Black Men of Greater Cleveland, I am very pleased to submit this letter in support of the "Every Child Deserves A Champion" Community Connectors grant application submitted by Famicos Foundation with its school partner OAK Leadership Institute, Good Community Foundation, Lee Road Baptist Church and Beech Brook.

The 100 Black Men was found as an organization in New York City in 1963. The organization, 100 Black Men of America, Inc. was formally incorporated in 1986 with 9 chapters. The National Alliance consists of leading African American men from a myriad of professions, including corporate executives, physicians, attorneys, entrepreneurs and entertainers, elected officials, professional athletes, educators and men from numerous other professions. Today, the organization has grown to over 106 chapters in the United States, England, and the Caribbean. The dedicated members of the 100 Black Men chapters have touched the lives of over 140,000 young people annually.

100 Black Men of Greater Cleveland, Inc. (the "100") became an affiliate of the 100 Black Men of America in 1997, and is fully committed to the national mission. The vision of the 100 Black Men of Greater Cleveland is committed to the intellectual development of youth and the economic empowerment of the African American community based on the following precepts: respect, for family, spirituality, justice and integrity. The 100 is committed to following core values: accountability, excellence, integrity, leadership, respect, teamwork. The core values of the 100 are recognized in our interaction with the community and our stakeholders, members, mentees and families. The core activities of the 100 are direct service and advocacy for improved life opportunities for African American youth specifically, the African American community in general and the larger community overall. This is accomplished through the combined efforts of our members, volunteers, and staff.

The activities of the organization are grouped into four programmatic categories known as "The Four for the Future". The initiatives include mentoring, education, health and wellness and economic development. Mentoring is the cornerstone of what the organization brings to the community by guiding youth in life experiences, fostering a positive self-perception and self-respect, encouraging excellence in education, and the pursuit of positive life-long goals. The 100 is engaged in innovative mentoring programs that serve young people who are nurtured by certified mentors using our national training model of Mentoring the 100 Way and S.M.A.R.T. goals.

The Hough Community is plagued with a number of issues including a high percentage of violent crime and drug arrests which reflect an even higher percentage than surrounding areas of Cleveland. With higher rates of drop out and lowered rates of graduation and completion there is an overwhelming need for intervention. The ability to achieve academic success in an educational setting is impacted by many factors in the Hough neighborhood such as an increase rate of child maltreatment, higher rates of poverty, increased levels of violent crime and lower completion rates of degree attainment. These shocking statistics and grim reality demonstrate the need for programming to combat such societal deficits as an intervention in the Hough community. Therefore it is without doubt and hesitation that I fully support and recommend the implementation of the "Every Child Deserves a Champion" Program.

Professionally and Humbly Submitted,

Gary E. Carrington

Gary E. Carrington, Ph.D
Vice President & Board Member
100 Black Men of Greater Cleveland