



GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

*Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services*



August 2017

HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

“Kerri,” who is 58 years old, has many mental health issues. Since 2005, she has lived in an institutionalized setting for the developmentally disabled, and, recently, she lost her mother with whom she was very close. The developmental disabilities board in the county where Kerri resides has purchased several houses that allow 3-4 residents to live in them, providing more of a home setting. Through the HOME Choice program, she was able to transition into one of them. Kerri has her own bedroom, and she was thrilled to be able to pick out the color of paint for her room. She will continue to work at her job placement five days a week. Kerri’s in-home service provider will assist her with attending doctor’s appointments, transportation needs, grocery shopping, errands, homemaking, as well as personal care. In addition, Kerri will have an ongoing case manager through the County Board of Developmental Disabilities. She is more than thrilled about this opportunity and her chance to live in an “actual” home with more freedoms. Kerri and her family had never heard of HOME Choice before, and they have expressed extreme gratitude for the program and the Genacross Service Coordinator who helped make Kerri’s transition a successful one.

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Sophie’s” presence graced the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus for the last 16 years of her long and productive life. She was born when Woodrow Wilson was president and Babe Ruth hit his first career home run. She was a mother of two, grandmother of six, and great-grandmother of 14. Sophie became a resident of Creekside independent living in May 2001. Back then, her health was great, and she enjoyed the companionship and many of the activities offered at Creekside. As her health needs increased, she moved into an assisted living apartment on campus. With her declining health, Sophie could not always participate in the activities she loved, such as reading, Bible study, group outings, and the Red Hat Society. Occasionally, Sophie would require more extensive care in the nursing center, but she was a fighter and always bounced back from health setbacks. As a faith-based community providing the healing ministry of Jesus, the Wolf Creek staff provided the care that Sophie needed when and where she needed it. She was an inspiration to many people, and she epitomized how to live life to its fullest. Sophie, who benefitted from the campuses’ many levels of care, passed away peacefully in assisted living at the age of 102.



SANDUSKY CAMPUS

“Samantha” came to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Sandusky Campus following a foot procedure. She had been diagnosed with gangrene in her left foot, a complication of obesity and diabetes. Samantha knew that she was in the right place to recover as much strength as possible. Upon her arrival, the staff started working immediately to provide quality care in all areas. Dietary staff carefully monitored Samantha’s intake, helping her achieve a healthier weight while consuming a diabetic diet. Therapists helped with re-building strength, boosting confidence, and educating her on ways to maintain her health. Nursing staff members conscientiously treated the wounds on her foot each day. After 36 days on the Sandusky Campus, Samantha was able to return home with her husband under the care of a home health agency. “I have lost almost 20 lbs. and feel better than ever! I am also very satisfied with the kindness and compassion that flowed through the building.”

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NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Harrison” came to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus with a fractured arm, due to a fall at home. His family had done everything possible to keep him safe and to provide for his needs, but Harrison’s hearing and cognitive losses made it extremely difficult for his family to continue to care for him at home. The staff at the Napoleon Campus worked carefully with him to get his fractured arm healed and back to its previous level of function. In order to get Harrison to do his therapy exercises, staff had to get his attention and help him understand what was expected of him, without causing him to lash out or become angry. Severe cognitive loss made it difficult for Harrison to trust others, especially strangers, and any pain from exercises caused him to refuse to cooperate in therapy. The therapy team worked closely with Harrison’s family to help him complete his plan of care, and the other disciplines also worked with family members so he would have familiar faces to trust when dressing, bathing, and dining. As Harrison progressed, he began to trust the staff more and let them help with his basic needs. By including Harrison’s family in the plan of care, the staff at Napoleon was able to gain his trust and rehabilitate his arm successfully. Harrison is now comfortable enough to attend activities and is cooperative with staff while performing daily tasks. Several of his children now volunteer on campus and help with special events. The staff’s understanding of how hearing loss and dementia affect a person’s ability to send and receive messages was an essential part of Harrison’s successful recovery and transition to living on the Napoleon Campus.

TOLEDO CAMPUS

“They” are the talk of the campus. They are so cute. They are mallard ducklings that are living in the courtyard of the Genacross Lutheran Services-Toledo Campus. Mr. & Mrs. Mallard came to check out the pond and the rest of the courtyard in early June. Apparently, the pair liked the accommodations, because they set up housekeeping behind the pond in a fenced area. Late in July, the eggs hatched, and there was a family living in the tall grass behind the waterfall. Mama Mallard takes them on walks to explore the courtyard. They play in puddles, explore under bushes, and eat whatever they find in the grass. If you see people standing at a window pointing and hear “ooohs” and “aaahs,” it is a safe bet that they are duckling watching. Campus residents, staff and visitors are smitten, there’s no way around it. What fun it will be to watch them learn to fly; but what mixed emotions everyone will have when they fly away and leave the campus behind. For now, it is a blessing that these creatures of God have felt comfortable to make a home in our midst.



FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

Genacross Family & Youth Services takes great pride in offering religious choices to youth. At the East Toledo Home, there are four youth who attend three different churches. In this way, they are able to practice the faith in which they were raised prior to treatment. There are also staff members who take extra steps to share their faith with the residents. Jasmine, an employee at the Maumee Youth Center, has definitely gone above and beyond to meet the spiritual needs of youth who are interested in the Christian faith. Once a week, she leads a Bible study that lasts about an hour. Youth are encouraged to bring their Bibles so they can follow along with the scriptures. The study begins with an opening prayer, provided by either a youth who volunteers or Jasmine. Discussion topics vary from such simple ones as “What is the Bible?” or “Who is Jesus?” to more complex topics of “Attributes of God” and “The Fall/Temptation.” Sometimes, the youth will watch a suitable video, listen to an appropriate song, or be encouraged to memorize a Bible verse. At the end of their study time, the youth are offered paper and pens to write down prayer requests for the prayer jar, and they wrap up their time with closing prayer. Jasmine also offers bedtime prayers with the youth in one of the units. Many youth participate sporadically, but two of the girls faithfully pray each night. The effect that Jasmine’s efforts have had on the unit is noticeable, and, overall, the Center seems to be a happier and a little calmer place.

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