



GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

*Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services*



June 2017

HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Recently, a Genacross Service Coordinator made a routine follow-up call to a HOME Choice client, who had moved back into the community from a nursing home. During the conversation, “Ryan” revealed that he was not getting around very well and was unable to walk the short distance to a local restaurant for meals. Since he was also unable to cook for himself, a friend was bringing him a sandwich once a day. After the call, the Service Coordinator, who was worried about Ryan, contacted his physician to get an order for therapy and nursing services. Subsequently, the coordinator contacted the home health agency Ryan had used when he was discharged from the nursing home and arranged for additional therapy and nursing care to be provided in his home. The coordinator also contacted a provider of home-delivered meals, and Ryan is now receiving two meals a day, three times per week. Ryan’s apartment needed to be cleaned and put in order, so the coordinator contacted a home care agency to arrange for an aide to come a couple times per week to assist with housekeeping. Ryan appreciates all of these services and is getting stronger each day, so he can successfully remain in his new home.

TOLEDO CAMPUS



Many people would expect that upon entering a long-term care facility they would find only elderly residents and their caregivers, but that isn’t the case at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Toledo Campus. Visitors to the campus might be very surprised to get off the elevator on the third floor and find a “kickball” game going on in the dining room – a game in which half of the participants are high school students. These teens are members of East Toledo Teens United, and they join residents every other Monday night for an evening activity. Another youth group, 6th through 10th graders from Hope Community Church, will be coming to the campus beginning in July. Their first visit will include an evening of one of the residents’ favorite games...bingo! The youngest group gracing the building consists of preschoolers from First St. John Lutheran Day School. They walk over from their classrooms next door to entertain residents with songs of the seasons. Then there are the high school students fulfilling volunteer hours and the college students representing a variety of programs. In fact, a group from Mercy College was instrumental in setting up the campus’ therapeutic music program. So don’t be surprised, if, on a visit to the Toledo Campus, you find young people in our midst.

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Ellen” came to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus after an outpatient procedure. While the procedure itself was not serious, she had several other medical issues that complicated the situation and made an immediate return home impossible. In addition, Ellen’s nature was to keep busy, and she had several restrictions to follow to make certain she fully recuperated and did not re-injure herself. Ellen was admitted to the Napoleon Campus for rehabilitation, and, over the course of 10 days, she received the appropriate care and therapy to address her health issues. When Ellen was ready to go home, she and her family were extremely pleased with the nursing care she had received and how effective her therapy had been during her recuperation. Even during short-term stays, the staff is able to make patients and their families feel comfortable and confident about the care and services they receive on the Napoleon Campus.

Although pseudonyms are used in the above ministry stories, Genacross follows HIPAA guidelines and has either obtained permission from our residents, patients, or clients, or has sufficiently concealed their identities, thereby enabling us to use their stories of God’s grace.

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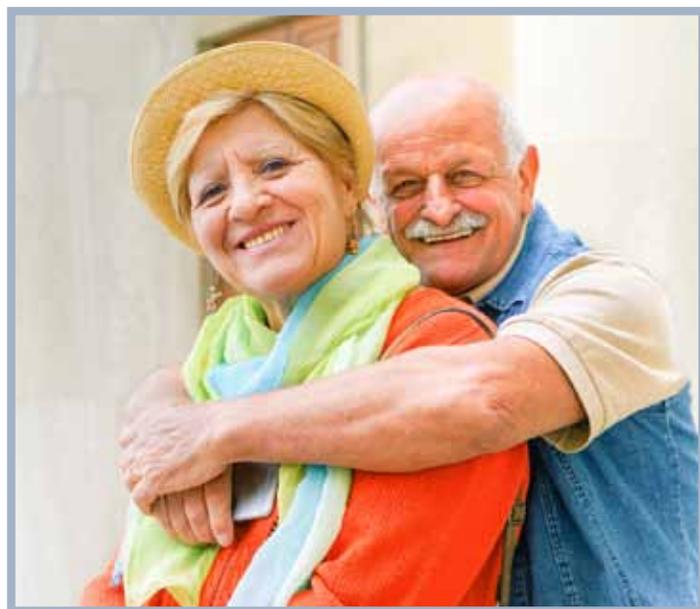
WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“David” had lived a relatively healthy 78 years, even recovering quickly after two hip replacement surgeries. Then came the accident: David fell from a balcony and broke his neck and sustained head injuries. The next year was a complete blur. In the hospital, he was unresponsive for 10 weeks. As a result of the fall, David’s short-term and long-term memory was impaired, and he was paralyzed from the waist down. He had also lost the function of his two hands. Most of the doctors his family consulted with gave David a dim prognosis; one doctor, however, felt David could survive this accident and provided hope.

Before he came to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus, David had been in many hospitals and four other nursing homes. “Finding Wolf Creek saved my life,” David said. “I had no ambition to live when I was in the other nursing homes.” When he arrived, David had nine deep wounds that would not heal. With the expertise of Wolf Creek’s wound specialist and the entire care team, the wounds have finally healed. “I don’t have to lie on one side anymore, and I can sit in my wheelchair now and socialize with others,” David said. “My quality of life has improved.” He is grateful for Ardella, his STNA, whom he calls his “savior.” She does little things for him and knows everything about his daily needs. She makes him feel at ease with his condition. David still cannot walk or sit up on his own, but he is receiving physical therapy daily to get stronger. Although David realizes he will most likely have limitations for the rest of his life, he is embracing life and making the best of each day.

SANDUSKY CAMPUS

“June” joined the Genacross Lutheran Services-Sandusky Campus family in April, following a stay at Firelands Regional Medical Center for a terrible infection. June had been happy and healthy prior to the unexpected illness. Her husband made the decision to admit her to the Sandusky Campus to continue treatments for the infection and to build up her strength. June had a rough start, considering the infection was lingering and she was still receiving IV antibiotics. The nursing staff at the Sandusky Campus carefully monitored her condition and promptly addressed all concerns. “The nursing staff here is very considerate and compassionate,” June said. “They do their best to make your stay here as easy as possible.” June has successfully completed physical therapy, as well as the antibiotic treatment, and will be returning home very soon. She is grateful for the excellent care she received at the Sandusky Campus and is excited about going home. June and her husband hope to enjoy their summer vacationing together; thanks to the caring and knowledgeable team of Genacross caregivers.



FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

In 2005, a young lady named “Mariah” was placed with Family & Youth Services because of violent suicidal and homicidal behaviors. She also had diagnoses of Asperger’s syndrome and obsessive compulsive disorder. Mariah did extremely well at the Wynn Group Home, making great strides in her behaviors and learning to manage her emotions. Staff made sure she maintained a relationship with her mother, who was not able to care for her due to her own mental health issues. As Mariah progressed in her treatment, it was clear that she needed a long-term placement to help her continue to learn independent living and vocational skills. She was transitioned to the program’s Anthony Wayne Group Home, where she was able to participate in Special Olympics and get a job. Staff members there even bought her a camera for Christmas, enabling her to cultivate a love of photography. After graduation, Mariah moved into an adult semi-independent home closer to her mother.

Mariah’s guardian ad litem, “Alice,” praised the work that Family & Youth Services had done with Mariah. Because she was so impressed with Mariah’s progress, Alice began referring other high-needs youth to the ministry. Over the years, many were not placed, but some were able to be helped by Family & Youth Services. In the past few years, two children were placed at the Maumee Youth Center. Both cases were very difficult youth with multiple needs. Alice was pleased to have them receive treatment at the Maumee Youth Center, where they continued to make progress. In May, both individuals transitioned to adult placements after graduation. Alice was at the ceremony proudly cheering them on and thanking Genacross for the strides made with more of her clients.

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