



GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

*Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services*



May 2017

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Jack” came to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus after surgery to repair a fractured ankle. He was non-weight bearing for several weeks, and his doctors had told him that due to his age and co-morbidities, he might never walk again without assistance. Jack was determined, however, to walk out of the facility on his own, and the therapy team was ready to help him beat the odds. After many triumphs and many, many setbacks, the day came when Jack put his walker aside and let the therapy team know he was going to be okay. Staff members gathered at the front door and clapped as Jack walked out of the facility. Many of them wanted to say goodbye to Jack, of course, but many may also have wanted to be witnesses of God’s work, as they watched Jack walk away.

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“John” was admitted to five different hospitals in a period of five months. He had multiple medical issues, and, after his last hospital stay, he received doctor’s orders for rehabilitation services. John was very displeased with the first place that he went to for rehabilitation. He felt that he was making no progress. After being discharged from that facility, he came to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus to continue his recovery. John was angry, though, and because of his previous experience, he was not enthusiastic about his therapy.

John’s therapists sat down with him and explained what they were going to have him do for rehab. John felt like he was starting from the beginning, since he could not walk, toilet, or eat by himself. The therapists emphasized to him that they were going to start with baby steps until he got stronger; then, he would advance to harder exercises for longer periods of time. After five weeks of working diligently with the respiratory therapist and compassionate staff at the Wolf Creek Campus, John’s attitude had completely changed. He was excited to see progress in all areas. On Easter, John even went home for a few hours, which was something he had not been able to do for several months. John’s life quickly turned around, and his goals were being met. “I want to be active again,” he said. “I want to watch my granddaughter play ball. I want my life back. Thanks to Genacross for being patient with me from the start and then building up my confidence to tackle the multitude of activities of daily living.”



HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

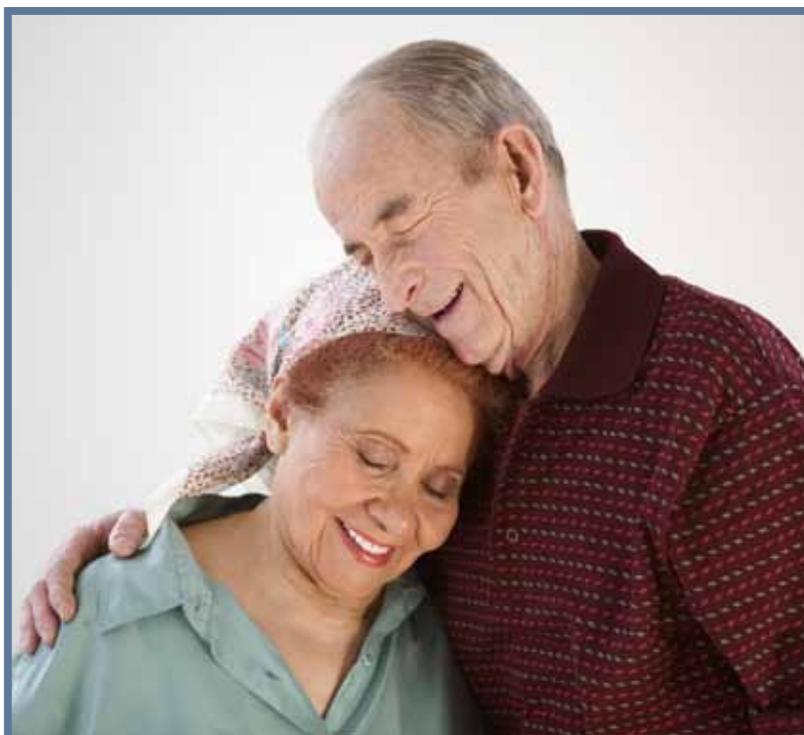
“Cathy” was rushed to the hospital in January 2016 because she could not breathe. It was determined she had swollen lymph nodes, which turned out to be cancerous. She had to be intubated for several days and the lymph nodes were removed. While in the hospital, she began chemotherapy. In March, she went to a skilled nursing facility for therapy in order to regain strength and return to the community. Cathy said that the doctor had told her in August that she was in remission, but that the cancer would most likely return at some point. Cathy remained positive, and her goal became to return to living independently in the community. With the help of the Genacross Service Coordinator assigned to her case through the HOME Choice program and after a great deal of hard work, Cathy returned to a home setting in April 2017.

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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SANDUSKY CAMPUS

“Geneva” was admitted to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Sandusky Campus with complications from kidney failure. When she arrived on the campus, she was very anxious because her husband was in the hospital, and she did not know where he would go when he was discharged. A few days later, Geneva’s anxiety disappeared when her husband was admitted to the Sandusky Campus. The couple was able to share a room, which allowed them ample time to catch up after being separated for a few months. During their stay on the Sandusky Campus, the couple worked hard in therapy. “The therapy staff has turned our lives around, and we can’t wait to go home,” Geneva said. Her husband added that the nursing staff had true compassion, even in high-stress situations. “The nurses knew just what to do for every resident,” he stated. Geneva and her husband will soon be going home after spending several months recuperating, and they are looking forward to maintaining the healthy lifestyle they learned from staff members. According to Geneva, “We’ve come a long way together, and we won’t stop here!”



FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Shanae” was 16 years old when she was referred to Genacross Family & Youth Services after being hospitalized for an attempted overdose of her diabetes medication. She had disrupted her adoptive home when her parents set limits on her social media, and she had stolen thousands of dollars’ worth of jewelry from her mother. She was obsessed with social media and had very few boundaries regarding her behavior on it. Shanae also experienced a great deal of anxiety, especially regarding her diabetes and other health issues. When she felt overwhelmed, she had a history of verbal and physical aggression to others, poor personal hygiene, running away, self-abusive behaviors, and sleep problems.

Shanae was placed at the Maumee Youth Center, where she responded well to the structure that staff set for her. She participated in individual therapy twice a week and group therapy five days a week. Initially, she attended school in an alternate learning environment. When she excelled, Shanae was transitioned to a community school and excelled there as well. She continued to make steady progress and transitioned to the Oregon Group Home after seven months. Shanae continues to participate in individual and group therapy, and staff members are working with her on coping skills for anxiety. She is also receiving community psychiatric supportive treatment services, while working toward a transition into her own apartment. Shanae currently works at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Toledo Campus as a recreational assistant. She will graduate high school at the end of May and plans to return to her hometown, where she will reside close to her adoptive family and receive transitional support from her local county Department of Job & Family Services. Shanae also has applied to a local technical college to obtain her nurse aide certificate and wants to continue working in a nursing home; since she has expressed that her dream job is to work with the elderly.

TOLEDO CAMPUS

Spring is here! With the coming of warmer weather, the thoughts of many residents turn to getting outside. The Genacross Lutheran Services-Toledo Campus is blessed with several courtyards that provide residents with outside areas to enjoy and do a little gardening, if they choose. The Labuhn Center also has raised flower beds that therapists can use with their short-term rehab patients. In addition, many residents look forward to getting out into the community. They enjoy riding on the bus along the river, through Pearson Metropark, or out to Maumee Bay State Park; and, if ice cream is involved, the outings are even better. The Butterfly House and the Toledo Zoo are other favorite destinations. For those who like shorter trips, there are shopping trips and lunch outings at local restaurants. It is shaping up to be a busy season, and the goal is to pack in as much summer fun for residents as possible.

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