



# GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

*Stories of the Called Ministries of  
Genacross Lutheran Services*



November 2016

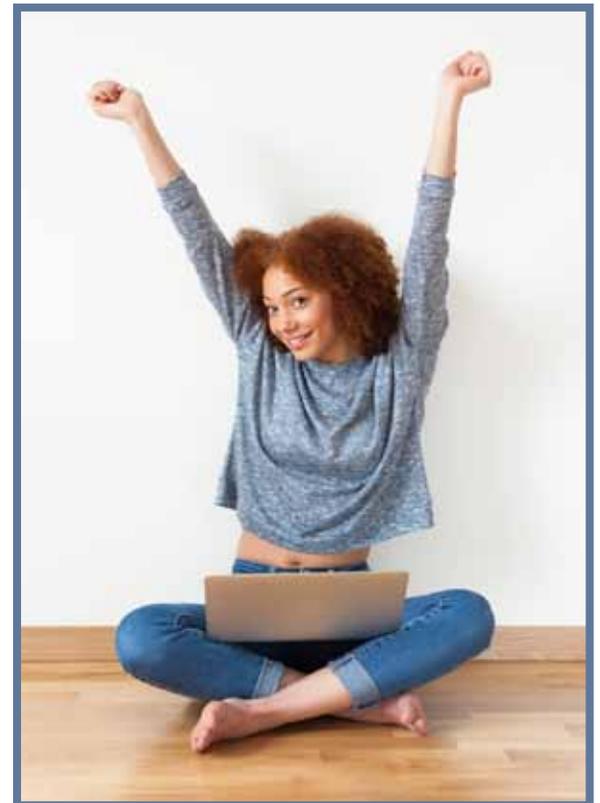
## TOLEDO CAMPUS

In the course of our ministry at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Toledo Campus, staff members witness families making life-changing decisions. While they witness, or are involved in, happy and sad times, sometimes it is just an everyday activity that makes an impression. Several weeks ago, the Thursday afternoon activity in The Labuhn Center was a board game. The game was chosen by "Angela" and "Christopher," the residents who were participating. They are mother and son, and Angela's daughter also joined in playing. The game they chose was Sorry! and it was interesting to see the family interaction. While Angela would not send either of her children back to start over, the siblings enjoyed sending each other back to the beginning. The family dynamics were so typical; just the setting was different. Maybe that is what made it seem special. A normal family moment experienced in their temporary home. Our new name is Genacross, because we minister across generations. Here was a living example of that!

## FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

"Callie" was removed from her home because of neglect and reported abuse. While in foster care, she was allegedly sexually abused. She and two biological brothers were adopted out of foster care when she was just six years old. Callie demonstrated self-harming behavior and attempted suicide four times. She was impulsive and argumentative in her adoptive home and displayed angry outbursts and lying. Unable to handle Callie's acting out, her adoptive parents rescinded the adoption. Subsequently, she was placed at the Wynn Group Home. Upon placement, Callie exhibited depression, anxiety, and self-harming behaviors. Staff and her therapist, however, worked to teach her coping skills to deal with her issues. She attended school at the Blackmon Alternate Learning Center, where she was provided more structure than she would have received at any other school. Callie met with the psychiatrist each month to get her medications stabilized. She met with her therapist at least twice a week and participated in group therapy five days a week.

While Callie continued to struggle with depression and anxiety, she began learning the coping skills the staff was teaching her. Soon, she was able to integrate them into her everyday life. While Callie still struggled, she was able to make positive choices and effectively use the coping skills to improve her situation. Then, her placing agency identified a foster home that was interested in having Callie live with them. She met the family and began visits with the foster parents and the other children in the home. A connection was made, and recently Callie was able to transition into their home.



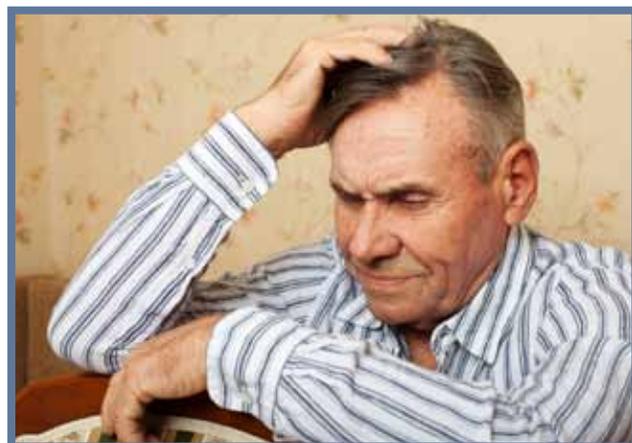
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## NAPOLEON CAMPUS

Having the ability to read body language is an asset for those who work with the elderly. Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus is fortunate to have experienced employees with this skill interacting with residents. "Sam" has dementia and has been living at the Health Center on the Napoleon Campus for several years. Recently, a large group exercise program was started on the campus, and Sam seemed to be an appropriate candidate for it. As Sam attended the sessions, however, staff noticed his lack of enthusiasm. His face was stoic, and, even with prompting and cueing, Sam would only participate in a very limited capacity. Staff members recognized his discomfort and immediately withdrew him from the program. Instead, they helped Sam participate in a small group activity with four other residents. The room was quiet, and prompts were given at a much slower rate. He thrived in this environment. Most staff members had never heard Sam say a word, but that day he said to his aide, "Thank you for taking me out of that crowd."

## HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

"Ryan" was living in his car in a rural area before going into a nursing facility for an infection. Once Ryan healed, the HOME Choice program enabled him to leave the nursing facility with the assistance of a Genacross Service Coordinator. Ryan was dealing with depression, and he needed a place to call home. The program's funds were able to help with purchasing the furniture and home goods Ryan needed, as well as paying for the first month's rent and security deposit on an apartment. He receives counseling for his depression and is participating in an employment program to obtain job skills and build a resume, since he has not worked in nearly 10 years. Ryan is enjoying his new apartment and being on his own, and the assistance he has received has helped him transition to independent living again.



## WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

"Nancy" fell at home and broke her wrist and hip. Following surgery, she was told she needed rehabilitation. From a list supplied by the hospital, Nancy chose the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus. Her doctor told her she would need six to eight weeks of rehab services. As one might expect, Nancy was not looking forward to spending that amount of time in a nursing care/rehabilitation facility. However, her attitude changed after she spent some time at the Wolf Creek Campus. She loved the grounds and enjoyed taking walks around the campus. She said the nurses were outstanding and "couldn't have been better." The staff was very helpful and friendly.

When Nancy returned to her surgeon for a follow-up visit, he commented on how well her wound had been cared for. He told her that she was healing much faster than he expected. He was so impressed with her care that he even asked Nancy where she was staying for her recovery. Nancy gladly informed him she was at the Wolf Creek Campus. Besides the great care she received, Nancy also commented that staff seemed genuinely engaged in caring for the residents. As an added bonus, Nancy and her husband both thought the food was amazingly good. While at Wolf Creek, Nancy also used the in-house hairdresser and enjoyed many conversations with the chaplain. After all was said and done, Nancy was discharged home after only three weeks of rehabilitation. She was elated that it was significantly less time than her surgeon had predicted. He told her it was good care by the wound care nurse and the therapists that had accelerated her recovery and enabled her to return home ahead of schedule.

## SANDUSKY CAMPUS

"Marie" chose the Genacross Lutheran Services-Sandusky Campus for rehabilitation after realizing that she needed therapy because of increased weakness. She had a great experience at the Sandusky Campus. "Therapy was good to me, very helpful, and made me feel at ease," she said. "The therapy staff is totally awesome!" Marie also enjoyed participating in bingo with activities and would have played it every night if it was available. Marie often mentioned how every STNA, on every shift, was so thoughtful that it would be too hard for her to pick a favorite. After regaining enough strength, Marie was able to return home. "I would definitely come back to the Sandusky Campus or recommend it to somebody if they needed therapy."