



God at Work in Our Midst

Stories of the Called Ministries of Lutheran Homes Society
April 2014



On a daily basis, Lutheran Homes Society impacts hundreds of residents, clients and families. The stories told here reflect the mission of Lutheran Homes Society to care for needy youth and elderly with compassion. Sharing these stories lets you know your support is truly making a difference in people's lives.

HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

In late October of 2013, "Sarah" was admitted to an LHS long-term care facility for rehabilitation services. Sarah, who was 55 years of age, had multiple medical complications. After a couple of months of care, she was discharged from the facility needing home health and therapy services. LHS Care Transitions staff followed up with Sarah and her husband once she was home and found it to be extremely cluttered. In fact, home health and therapy workers could not provide services due to the amount of clutter in each room of the house. Care Transitions staff soon realized they were dealing with an extreme hoarding case. As staff assessed Sarah, they found that she wanted her home life to change, but could not manage the change on her own. She has suffered with mental health issues in the past and, at times, can not maintain her home. Her husband refused to meet with staff because of his embarrassment over the home's condition. Care Transitions staff referred Sarah to the LHS Family & Youth ministry for mental health counseling and services. The two LHS ministries collaborated to develop a negotiated agreement with the couple to help clean one room of their home to ensure that therapy and home health services could be delivered to Sarah. In return, Sarah and her husband would participate in mental health counseling, as recommended by LHS Family & Youth, and they would continue to clean the remaining rooms on their own. A company that specialized in working with extreme hoarders was hired to clean the living room. Sarah and her husband, who continue to clean the house little by little, are grateful for the services LHS has provided and have commented that LHS has given them a new lease on life.

BEFORE



AFTER



WOLF CREEK

Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek was blessed with an opportunity to serve two devoted sisters. "Cheryl" and "Mary" have shared many of life's ups and downs, and they have lived together in the same apartment for the last 16 years. In 2007, both were involved in a car accident that totaled the car in which they were traveling. Cheryl sustained multiple injuries on her right side, while Mary had cracked ribs and was swollen and bruised from the air bag. Fortunately, both were able to return to living independently in their apartment. Then, two months apart in 2013, they experienced falls in their apartment. First, Mary broke her leg, which required surgery, and then Cheryl broke her fibula. Both ladies came to the Wolf Creek campus on stretchers, unable to bear any weight. After months of rehabilitation, Cheryl is now 100% weight bearing and moving around with a walker. Soon, she will be ready to go back to her apartment. Mary is also expected to return home within the next couple of weeks when she achieves her goals. They are both very thankful for the care they have received at Wolf Creek. "Everyone is very nice," asserts Mary. Both sisters have raved about their therapy and how gentle everyone has been with them, and how they would come back to Wolf Creek if needed. They would highly recommend Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek to others.

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

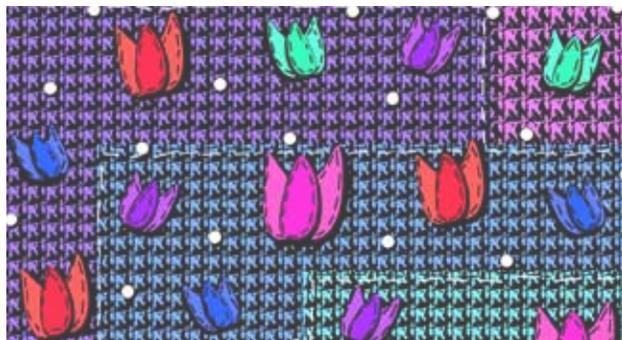
After “Roberta” fell at home, tests in the hospital revealed that she had heart-related issues that most likely caused her fall. Physicians decided that she needed a pacemaker. After the procedure, however, Roberta developed an infection and was extremely confused. Her family knew they could not take her home in her current condition. They chose Lutheran Home at Napoleon because Roberta had always said that if she had to go anywhere it would be to the Lutheran Home. Upon her arrival, the family expressed their concerns about her health. They explained that Roberta had been living independently and questioned whether or not she would ever be able to return home. Staff reassured them that Roberta would receive the best care and therapy possible. They explained that sometimes anesthesia, along with an infection, takes a toll on older adults. It takes time for the body to readjust. As time progressed, it appeared that Roberta would not be able to return home to an independent lifestyle. Then staff began to notice that she was recognizing more of her surroundings and remembering her therapy times. Family members also could see improvements. Roberta was recovering remarkably. The management team and nursing staff were pleased with her progress. Roberta has now decided to transition to assisted living. She likes knowing that there is staff around if she needs help and is reassured by the fact that the care center is next door.

TOLEDO CAMPUS

A number of years ago, “Sharon” had to make the difficult decision to place her husband “Larry” at Lutheran Home at Toledo. Sharon often reached out to staff for reassurance that she had made a good decision. The staff provided excellent care to Larry, allowing him to experience a Wholeness of Life that is consistent with LHS values. This provided Sharon with a great deal of relief, and she formed strong relationships within the facility. Recently, as Larry’s health declined, his physician recommended that he go to inpatient hospice. Sharon, however, refused this option, because she felt that Larry’s end-of-life care would be better provided at Lutheran Home at Toledo. The compassion and support the staff provided to Sharon has also left a long-lasting impression. Sharon and her children are appreciative of all the compassionate care and support provided to their family.

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Jack” came into care and treatment with a history of violent and aggressive behavior, injuring staff, damaging property, hoarding food, attempting suicide, and running away. He had assaulted 27 staff members at a previous setting. Within three days of placement at the Maumee Youth Center, Jack punched a caregiver in the face, breaking his nose. Subsequently, he damaged vehicles and assaulted peers. He ran away and was arrested. The team of caregivers working with Jack did not give up. They were determined to find a way to reach him. They located his biological father, whom he had never met. Staff did whatever it took to get him engaged with his son, including purchasing plane tickets to fly him in from the West Coast, picking him up at the Detroit airport, counseling, cajoling, and comforting. Jack assaulted staff again, ran away and was arrested. He was then moved to the Wynn Treatment Facility. Slowly he began to make changes. Jack began attending school at the Blackmon Alternate Learning Center, where he did very well, earning “A” and “B” grades. Jack and his father also began attending monthly Partners in Treatment programming. They got to know each other and began the long journey toward reunification. Eventually, Jack moved to the West Coast to be closer to his father. Today, he lives in a residential treatment setting only an hour away from his father. Jack is developing anger management skills and is learning how to form healthy relationships.



SANDUSKY CAMPUS

At Lutheran Memorial Home, as at all LHS facilities, it is important that spiritual care is provided to residents, staff and families. Recently, Chaplain Kathy Shuck was approached by a family member who was in need of spiritual guidance. “Margaret” explained that she was not a Lutheran and hoped that did not matter. Chaplain Shuck replied, “You are a child of God,” and spent time praying with her. She gave Margaret a Bible and suggested several passages to study. Margaret was so thankful for the spiritual counseling she received, that she has signed up to volunteer at the Sandusky campus.