



God at Work in Our Midst

Stories of the Called Ministries of Lutheran Homes Society
April 2015



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.

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

"Kathy" came to Lutheran Home at Napoleon with a fractured hip. She was familiar with the Lutheran Home at Napoleon campus because she had been in and out visiting friends, neighbors, and families over the years. Even though going to a rehabilitation center was a difficult choice for Kathy, she knew the high caliber of care she would receive from the staff. She worked hard in therapy and found herself a bit surprised at how weak her upper body had become, due to her lower extremity weight-bearing restrictions. Kathy realized how much she needed upper body strength to maneuver her wheelchair and to transfer herself to a bed or another chair. When the time approached for her discharge, a home assessment was completed by therapy staff so that everything would be ready for Kathy to transition home successfully. After Kathy returned home, members of the therapy team who had worked with her as an inpatient were able to continue working with her through an arrangement with the LHS home health agency. Kathy is well on her way to a complete recovery. She wrote thank you notes expressing how the staff of the Lutheran Home made her feel comfortable and in charge of making her own decisions; they even arranged for her card clubs to come and play at the facility while she was there.



SANDUSKY CAMPUS

A specialty hospital in the Toledo area desperately needed to find a facility that would accommodate "Gregory," due to the fact that many physicians in the Sandusky area were not accepting new patients with his insurance. The entire LHS team worked very hard to get Gregory to Lutheran Memorial Home. An LHS Regional Marketing Director went to the hospital to initiate a patient assessment and to give Gregory information on the different services offered at the facility. The Nurse Liaison worked diligently to find a physician who was accepting new patients with his particular insurance. After 11 failed attempts, she was able to find a physician in the Sandusky area who would accept Gregory as a patient. Once all the needed information was obtained, the Admissions Coordinator obtained precertification, and Gregory was admitted the next day. The patient and the hospital case manager were very impressed with how hard everyone worked to accommodate this patient and obtain a successful placement.

HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

"Craig" was referred to LHS through the PASSPORT program, since he was having difficulty scheduling appointments and speaking to service providers. Craig was born with severe hearing impairments that limited his ability to communicate by phone. This has created quite an obstacle for him. The LHS Service Coordinator researched options and resources available through the Ability Center, Purple Communication and CapTel. The Service Coordinator then met with Craig to discuss what communication tools appealed to him and to review his options. Craig was only interested in learning more about tools available through Purple Communication. The Service Coordinator was able to facilitate email communication between Craig and a company representative. Since Craig is quite savvy in using a computer, he connected with the representative and now has a reliable means to communicate with his service providers and others.

TOLEDO CAMPUS

“David” came to The Labuhn Center after hip surgery. He was flat on his back, totally dependent, and dealing with Parkinson’s disease. In his younger days, he had been a basketball player, a coach, and an educator. Now, according to one of his therapists, “he was one of the most physically impaired patients she had ever worked with.” His therapy started slowly, with him lying on a tilt table and working toward weight-bearing status. It took weeks of physical and occupational therapy to get him to where he could sit up in a chair. During some of his treatments, David would sing Christian hymns. As the weeks went by, he gradually became stronger. Eventually, he was able to walk 20 feet with a walker and assistance, and was able to feed himself. He and his wife, Donna, worked as a team with the therapists, as she learned to assist him with transferring from his bed to his wheelchair. She would push his wheelchair, and they would go for walks around the campus. Many times, David would be sporting his Ohio State shirts and pants. During David’s stay, he and Donna bonded with the staff, and David found a kindred spirit in the resident across the hall who had played professional basketball. They enjoyed many spirited conversations. When the time came to leave The Labuhn Center, David and Donna went home ready to meet the challenges of daily life. He had worked very hard to progress as far as he had, and she was at his side every step of the way. Due to his Parkinson’s disease, David’s overall condition deteriorated when he got home. Nonetheless, in no way did it diminish his accomplishments while at The Labuhn Center or the inspiration he was to those who watched him battle and overcome so many obstacles.

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Evan” grew up in an abusive and dysfunctional family, his home filled with violence, drug use and crime. As he grew up he became angry. He felt neglected and unsafe. At a very young age, Evan turned this anger into trying to make his own way in life; he turned to the streets to make his own living through stealing and selling drugs. By the time he came into care and treatment at LHS Family and Youth Services, Evan had a rap sheet in juvenile court that included charges of carrying a concealed weapon, aggravated menacing, domestic violence, assault, and burglary. From his very first day in care, Evan resisted any notion of being bound by rules or structure. He didn’t see any need to change and wanted to manipulate the program in any way he could to get through it and get back to what he felt was a successful lifestyle. The next several months were rough, filled with fits of anger and punched-in walls.

Yet all the while, Evan was slowly showing progress and a willingness to improve. Staff kept encouraging him to use the verbal skills and business skills he had used for criminal purposes for something of greater value and long-term success, without the worry of going to jail. After a number of months, Evan showed enough progress to be trusted to get a part-time job. He has been thriving at work and school. He has had challenging moments, but these have become learning opportunities that have helped him grow. Evan has a savings account and is working toward graduating from high school. In addition to work and school, he is taking online credit recovery classes to graduate sooner. The well-trained and nurturing professionals at Family and Youth Services have helped David change for the better, and he is working hard to make certain his chances for future success are great.



WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

After much soul searching, Sam and Betty decided to sell the house in which they had lived for 50 years and move into Creekside independent living at Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek. While this was not an easy decision, they enjoyed their time together in independent living – having fun without many of the burdens that come with owning a home. After Betty passed away a couple of years ago, the condo became too much for Sam to handle and brought back too many memories of his and Betty’s life together. Sam’s health was also starting to decline. This was when the “beauty” of a continuum care community came in handy. Sam moved into an assisted living apartment on the Wolf Creek campus last year. He was happy with his move to assisted living; and his family and he are grateful for the daily help the staff provides him. Unfortunately, earlier this year, Sam had health issues that required him to move to another level of care – skilled nursing. While he recovered, Sam could once again remain on the campus with which he was familiar. Because of the therapy he received and his commitment to getting stronger, Sam was eventually able to return to his assisted living apartment. The family is grateful for the nurses, aides and therapists who made Sam’s recovery possible.