



God at Work in Our Midst

Stories of the Called Ministries of Lutheran Homes Society
April 2016



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

“Edwin” came to Lutheran Home at Napoleon for rehabilitation after hip replacement surgery. His prognosis was good, and he and his family planned for him to return home after his rehab stay. He was even hoping to hit a golf ball or two this summer. Edwin’s recovery was progressing well, until, seemingly out of nowhere, he started having health problems. He was growing weaker instead of stronger. His demeanor changed and instead of looking forward to therapy, Edwin balked and was beginning to refuse treatment. The team could not understand the sudden change in his outlook and condition. They began to have frequent discussions with the physician and Edwin’s family. During morning meeting, staff members said extra prayers for aid in discovering what was interfering with his progress and asked for peace for the family. Meanwhile, they poured over orders to see what, if anything, was being missed. Nobody could find a misstep. Finally, Edwin was sent to the hospital where he underwent testing and was found to have a previously undiagnosed heart condition. Armed with this new information and a treatment plan, he returned to the Napoleon campus and made progress. Due to the perseverance of staff and the patient, Edwin finally reached his goal of returning home.

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

Nine months ago, “Betty” came to Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek for rehabilitation after surgery. She had been wheelchair bound for two months, her legs were weak, and she was unable to get in and out of bed. Betty worked hard at therapy and progressed from the wheelchair to a walker. She was discharged from Wolf Creek and was able to live independently in an apartment she obtained through the HOME Choice program. She was excited and proud that she was able to carry out her activities of daily living, thanks to the rehab she received at Wolf Creek. Then two months later, Betty’s body filled up with water and her kidneys began to fail. She required another hospital stay and needed rehabilitation to build up her strength. She knew exactly where she wanted to go – back to the Wolf Creek campus. Again, she had a positive experience. During her stay, she went on numerous outings and enjoyed being busy with all the activities. She made many friends and was sad to leave them when it was time to go home. “Wolf Creek has become my family and home and, if I ever need rehab again, there is no doubt in my mind where I would go. Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek rocks!”



TOLEDO CAMPUS

“Jennifer” had been through a similar surgery on several occasions, but this time things went horribly wrong. After all was said and done, Jennifer had suffered two strokes, had a section of her skull removed, was paralyzed on her left side, and lay in a coma. To make matters worse, she was in Maryland, and her family is here in Northwest Ohio. Hospital staff worked with her father and provided him with a list of local rehab facilities that accepted her insurance. Lutheran Home at Toledo was on that list. After touring the facility, Jennifer’s family decided to admit her to The Labuhn Center. She began working with physical, occupational and speech therapy. Soon she started making progress. Her diet was upgraded; then she moved her left leg and then her left arm. On Good Friday, Jennifer stood for the first time since the day of the surgery back in January. Her accomplishments were met by cheers from the therapy staff and tears of relief and thankfulness from Jennifer and her family members. She continues to work hard and make progress daily, and she has set high goals for herself. Jennifer is grateful for the great team at The Labuhn Center that is working on her recovery.

SANDUSKY CAMPUS

“Marcy,” who has battled multiple sclerosis for many years, recently had an infection that made it impossible for her to remain at home. After treatment at the Cleveland Clinic, she came to Lutheran Memorial Home for rehabilitation. Marcy arrived ready to work. She was always eager to tackle therapy and thought her therapists were “excellent.” Prior to coming to the Sandusky campus, Marcy depended on using a lift in her home and was totally reliant on family and caregivers for her care, including personal grooming. Marcy’s therapists worked so diligently on her recovery that she surpassed her prior level of function. She went home being able to handle most of her own personal hygiene. “Therapy goes above and beyond to make sure you meet your goals!” Marcy said. During her stay, nursing staff also worked hard to help eliminate Marcy’s lingering infection. She appreciated the hands-on care she received by the nurses and aides, stating that “They always went out of their way to help me.” Staff members felt a collective sense of pride in knowing Marcy was returning home in better shape than her previous “normal.” Marcy added before leaving: “If I ever have to go somewhere again, I will most definitely pick here. The other facilities in the area that I have been to don’t even compare!”



FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Theo” was only six when he was placed at LHS Maumee Youth Center. He was large for his age and extremely overweight. His mother had been in and out of jail for domestic violence and drugs. He had a very limited vocabulary and resorted to violent rage when he didn’t get his way, partly due to his inability to communicate. While at the Maumee Youth Center, Theo was provided consistency and structure that he never had at home. He received occupational and speech therapy to address his physical and language delays. Theo met with his therapist several times each week. With help from staff, he began learning coping skills and eventually was able to implement them more consistently.

Because Theo was being provided a healthy and balanced diet for the first time in his life, he began to lose weight. He almost immediately began improving in school, as well. Previously, Theo had received a grade of “Needs Improvement” in each subject. He is now passing his classes. His progress has been so dramatic that he was able to transition to the Anthony Wayne Group Home. He continues to flourish in the small group of youth that lives there. Theo loves to volunteer at the Humane Society, where he can help feed and care for the animals. His acts of aggression have almost completely disappeared. While he can still be quiet and shy, his vocabulary has grown by leaps and bounds. As a consequence, he is able to communicate his thoughts and feelings to staff and his peers.

HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

“Donna” moved to Luther Pines senior apartment community in Lima in February. Upon meeting with her a couple of weeks later, the Service Coordinator discovered a kind, caring, and cheerful woman with an awesome sense of humor. Even though life has been challenging for her, Donna has a generous spirit and is willing to help others. She has a younger sister who also lives at Luther Pines, and now they have more opportunities to spend time together. During their initial meeting, the Service Coordinator was able to share several programs that could help with medical bills and food costs, since Donna’s Social Security income is not large. Consequently, the Service Coordinator helped her complete the necessary applications. Donna was very humble and appreciative for the assistance she received, and she is very happy to be living at Luther Pines.