



God at Work in Our Midst

Stories of the Called Ministries of Lutheran Homes Society
August 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.

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

"Judy" stopped by Lutheran Home at Napoleon to inquire about the services offered on the campus. She was reluctant to provide her name, because her mother had no idea that she was looking into options for her future care. Judy indicated that her mother was 94 years old, was starting to slow down, and has had some recent health issues. Judy was shown some of the campus, and then thanked staff for the tour and information before leaving. After a month had gone by, Judy came back with her mother, "Lorna." Judy apologized for stopping by unannounced, but when she had mentioned the facility, her mother had asked to see it. Staff explained that this was no problem. As Judy and her mother began their tour, it was evident that Lorna was not quite ready for the Care Center, so staff took them to Alpine Village assisted living. As they viewed the apartments, they became extremely excited. In fact, they made a down payment that very day and, within three days, Lorna had moved in. Judy explained, "I had always heard about Alpine Village, but I never paid attention to the services offered because my mother did not need them." She is so thankful for the assistance given to her and her family. This transition, which she said could have been difficult, was wonderful. Judy went on to say that her mother is no longer sitting alone at home waiting for someone to check on her, and she has made many great friends.



TOLEDO CAMPUS

"Dan" was a general contractor, who genuinely loved his work and the outdoors. After he retired, his health began to be a challenge for him, and he had to get a pacemaker. Later, he was admitted to the hospital with fatigue and a condition that led to more surgery. When Dan was admitted to The Labuhn Center, he was very weak, frustrated and, although alert and oriented, was having problem-solving issues. The entire team was there, supporting and encouraging him to do everything possible to reach his ultimate goal of returning home. They also provided quality care that enabled him to heal. Dan knew that in order to go home, he would need a lot of therapy to strengthen his body. He lives with his spouse in a two-story home, where his bedroom and bathroom are upstairs. This was a problem, because of his risk of falling. While in care, he was very motivated to work with the therapy and nursing teams on the programs developed for him. After two weeks, he was doing so well and felt so much better that he was able to return home. Dan was thrilled and is very complimentary of the staff that helped make it possible.

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

"Betty" came to Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek rehab about two months ago. Because of recent surgery, she was unable to bear any weight on her hip. She has worked very hard with therapy to meet her goals. She recently received the upgraded status for "weight bearing as tolerated," and she is doing well enough to return home. This past week, therapists completed a home assessment. Once home, she will continue with Wolf Creek outpatient therapy services. Betty stated, "Everything has been real good, and everyone has treated me really nice. I would advise anyone who is sick or needs rehabilitation to come here."

SANDUSKY CAMPUS

Lutheran Memorial Home shares the following letter they received:

*“Sonny Vaughn passed at age 94 on December 24, 2011, and Jo Vaughn passed at age 94 in July 2014. To our friends at the Lutheran Memorial Home, this is just a gift of appreciation for the years of service you gave to my mother and father, Josephine and Eugene (Josey & Sonny) Vaughn. You clearly took on a task that [my family and I] could not have done. You made their final years as pleasant and comfortable as possible. My sister asked for names, but as I thought about it, I felt that would be an injustice to all of you who worked as nursing heroes or indirect team members. So please pass on to all the caregivers, nurses and volunteers on their wing (West); the kitchen, transportation, activity, rehab and administrative staff – including those who have rotated out of those very difficult positions; and especially the young lady who kept my mother looking and feeling pretty until her very last day with us. Thank You!!!!
The Family of Sonny & Jo Vaughn”*

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Jane” was born into an abusive family and suffered severe trauma the first four years of her life. Fortunately, she was adopted into a loving home. During her formative years, though, aggressive behaviors began to appear. They increased in frequency and duration. Eventually her explosive behaviors and acts of aggression put Jane and her family at risk, and her unsafe behaviors became too much for her family to handle. When she arrived at the Maumee Youth Center at age 15, she was distrustful of staff, and directed her anger at being placed in a residential facility at them. Staff spent hours each day working consistently with her, teaching and modeling good behaviors. By showing they cared about her and providing a structured daily routine, her aggression decreased. Yet, it was often two steps forward and one step back.

The staff did not give up and neither did Jane. Her therapist worked tirelessly with her to develop coping skills to get her through the times when she would become upset or angry. When Jane turned 18, she became her own legal guardian and could make her own choices about her future. There was much discussion and concern about this, but Jane decided to graduate from high school instead of postponing graduation. Four days after graduation from the Liberty Educational Center, Jane left the Maumee Youth Center and moved into her own house in her home county. Staff members still ensure she stays on track and takes her medication. The numerous independent living skills she learned and practiced at the Center have been instrumental in Jane’s newfound independence. She is able to take care of the cooking, cleaning, and other chores needed to maintain her home. She enjoys making her weekly menu and shopping for her needed items. Now that she lives close to her family, they are able to visit frequently, which brings her joy. Jane’s new goal is to decrease the amount of time that staff is with her, and she is currently seeking employment.



HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

“Jon” had been trying to connect with a funeral director for a couple of months to make his life insurance policy an irrevocable policy, so the cost of his funeral expenses would not preclude his eligibility for Medicaid benefits. He was unsuccessful and requested the assistance of his LHS Service Coordinator. Jon wanted to turn his policy into an irrevocable one, because he was interested in applying for PASSPORT independent living assistance services. He was having difficulty transferring from a lift chair and ambulating to the bathroom on his own. The coordinator was able to contact the funeral director and explained the importance of completing the paperwork to meet the Medicaid application deadline through the Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS). The funeral director showed up on the date of the deadline, but failed to complete the entire process. The coordinator called him back again and stressed the importance of the situation. Fortunately, the DJFS office had been working with Jon and agreed to provide two deadline extensions throughout this process. Finally, the funeral director came over to complete the paperwork. Once he met with Jon, the coordinator requested that he immediately fax a copy to DJFS and also give one to Jon so that he could pass it along to LHS staff to fax as well. This would ensure that the DJFS caseworker received it. Later, the coordinator received confirmation that the fax had been received, and that Jon is eligible for Medicaid waiver. PASSPORT services can now be approved, so Jon can remain in his own home and receive the assistance he needs to keep him safe and healthy.