



God at Work in Our Midst

Stories of the Called Ministries of Lutheran Homes Society
February 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.

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

Most residents who use the spectrum of living choices at Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek begin in independent living and, as they need more assistance, move to a higher level of care. "Ronald," however, moved through the Wolf Creek living choices in the opposite direction. He came to the nursing care center for about a month. During that time, even though he was in a wheelchair, Ronald realized he could still take care of himself. His short stay gave him the confidence he needed to decide on his future living arrangements. Ronald toured Creekside independent living and fell in love with the campus even more. He leased a condominium and, while waiting for it to be ready, temporarily moved into assisted living on the Wolf Creek campus. Ronald has completed the spectrum – nursing care to assisted living and now independent living – in reverse order from the more "normal" path.

In addition to this happening with Ronald, his wife required nursing care. She moved into the care center, with plans of relocating to the condo with Ronald when she is discharged. "Life at the Creek has been very good. Everyone has treated me very well, and I enjoyed getting to know the nurses and aides," Ronald commented, adding that he has had "fun." One of the key benefits of Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek is that it has different levels of care on one campus. If loved ones have a decline (or an improvement) in health, the campus can meet all their needs. Ronald and his wife are perfect examples of this in action.

TOLEDO CAMPUS

At 85 years of age, "George" was still going to work every day at the business he owns in north Toledo. It came as no surprise to anyone who knows him that George was at work when he fell and broke his hip. True to his character, he drove himself to the hospital with the broken hip, although he did stop to pick up his daughter on the way to the hospital. After his surgery, George came to The Labuhn Center on the Lutheran Home at Toledo campus for his rehabilitation. George applied his strong work ethic to his therapy. He quickly advanced from ambulating five feet to over 150 feet. Of course, George credits the "wonderful" therapy staff for his quick recovery. "They are always pushing – very nicely, but they don't let me get away with anything," George said with a big grin on his face. After about two and half weeks at The Labuhn Center, George walked out the front door to go home. Not surprisingly, he was looking forward to getting back to work. When asked when he might retire, George smiled and said, "Maybe at 87."



SANDUSKY CAMPUS

"Mark" was admitted to Lutheran Memorial Home several months ago because of physical issues related to his Parkinson's disease. During Mark's stay, he participated in many activities that helped him get to know other residents and staff. Physical therapy was wonderful for Mark, as he pushed through much of the pain he was experiencing. The dedicated staff continuously encouraged him to work hard, even as his condition continued to progress and make it hard for him to ambulate. To cheer up Mark, his daughter threw a 77th birthday party for him at Lutheran Memorial Home. Staff members eagerly jumped in and helped make the day special for Mark and his family by showing how much they cared. Sadly, just over four months after coming to Lutheran Memorial Home, Mark passed away. Donations were made to the home in Mark's honor, and the funds will go toward activities he enjoyed and physical therapy equipment related to his care. His daughter reached out to staff and expressed how much Mark's family enjoyed his stay there. "Thanks again to everyone who took care of Mark," she said. "We thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

“Mary” is a PASSPORT client who needed assistance filling out the forms and filing for the Medicaid waiver program. An LHS Service Coordinator received the referral and called to meet with Mary and her husband in their home. When the Service Coordinator met with them, they appreciated that someone could assist them in the process. They went through all the application paperwork, and the Service Coordinator helped them understand, in detail, everything they were signing and all the personal documentation that was needed to file for the waiver program. Overall, they met three times throughout the process, and Mary had a specific person to call when she had questions.

Finally, the Service Coordinator went down to the county Department of Job and Family Services office and turned in all the documentation to Mary’s case worker. When Mary’s Medicaid waiver was approved, the LHS Service Coordinator went over to her house to go through all the resulting paperwork. “Everything has been completed so quickly, and I can’t believe I got approved so quickly,” Mary commented. “My daughter is so happy and surprised on how smoothly this went.”



FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Janie” entered foster care because of domestic violence and substance abuse issues in her biological family. She was adopted at age three, but re-entered substitute care at age 11 and was placed in a psychiatric hospital for aggression, running away, and self-harming behavior. Janie’s adoptive parents then separated. It was also reported that Janie functioned at only a 6-year-old level. She was placed at the LHS Maumee Youth Center in hopes of stabilizing her behavior, so she could return to the home of one of her adoptive parents and siblings. After a few short months, however, Janie’s adoptive parents decided to terminate their parental rights. Despite this loss, Janie continued to make improvements. She responded well to the structure, consistency, support, and services she received from the residential, clinical, and educational staff at the Maumee Youth Center. Now, Janie talks with others when upset, instead of running away. She has continued to show improvement with her social skills, coping skills, and ability to develop healthy relationships with staff members and peers. She even received straight A’s on her latest report card. Recently, Janie was able to step down to the less restrictive setting at the Wynn Group Home, where she is starting to make new friends and is adjusting well.

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

After the excitement of the holidays, the beginning of a new year can feel monotonous and dreary. In order to lift residents’ spirits, Lutheran Home at Napoleon held a Snow Ball. The party featured music, food, and dancing. Residents dressed up, and the community room was decorated like a ball room. For the past two years, entertainer Matt Richardson has come to sing some of the old standards, and he includes a few of the residents’ favorite hymns as well. It is especially touching to see a couple holding hands or singing to each other in the back of the room. Watching the residents, you can see them travel back in their minds to a time when they were young and would dance with a special partner to some of their favorite songs. The event’s popularity is growing among the residents, and even family members are beginning to come and enjoy the Snow Ball.