



God at Work in Our Midst

Stories of the Called Ministries of Lutheran Homes Society
February 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

"Ruth" came to the Lutheran Home at Napoleon campus at 80 years of age, moving into a Bavarian Village independent living condominium. She was happy to have the freedom of independent living without the worry of home ownership. The "community feel" of the neighbors watching out for one another provided a sense of security for Ruth. She continued living there for 10 plus years, and then, after a decline in her health, she transitioned to Alpine Village assisted living. The privacy of her apartment allowed Ruth a sense of independence similar to what she had enjoyed at Bavarian Village. She appreciated both the fellowship during meals and the security she felt in assisted living. Upon Ruth's passing, her family expressed gratitude for the independence she had experienced on the Napoleon campus. Ruth's family explained, "Ruth's living here gave her more life than we could have, had she stayed in her home in the country. We are forever grateful for the Lutheran Home and the various services provided to our mother in her time of need."



TOLEDO CAMPUS

"Bob" is a former skilled resident of the Lutheran Home at Toledo campus. He came to the facility early in 2013, after having knee replacement surgery. He received his post surgical wound care and rehabilitation at The Labuhn Center and had a successful return to home. Bob was able to resume traveling and doing the activities he enjoyed. Recently, Bob called the admissions department to inform them that he would be having an operation on his other knee. Although his doctor told him that most knee replacement patients return home directly from the hospital, Bob was so impressed and confident with the care and therapy he received the last time, he felt that his recovery would be better served at Lutheran Home at Toledo.

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

"Christian" entered care with only a garbage bag full of clothes and an angry demeanor. He was angry that his mother didn't want him to live with her anymore and that she had decided her boyfriend was more important than Christian. Because he had never been identified "special needs" in school, it took awhile for him to find his way in the classroom. To meet his educational and behavioral needs, he was eventually placed in a special needs classroom. With proper support in place, Christian was able to join the high school football team, attend the homecoming dance, and earn A and B grades. He began helping the janitor at the high school, earning high school credit as well as extra spending money. A few years after leaving care, he called and thanked the staff for helping him to overcome his obstacles. Christian told staff that he had recently married and was employed in a full-time position.

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Darlene” suffered two strokes in 2013; the second stroke affected her left side with numbness and aches in areas where she never had pain before. In addition, her speech was compromised, which proved to be a significant challenge for her. After being hospitalized, she was discharged to Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek’s skilled rehabilitation unit. Darlene had issues with speech, balance, dressing, walking, as well as many of the activities of home management. At Wolf Creek, she received physical, occupational, and speech therapy and did very well. The team worked extensively with Darlene, helping her to relearn how to use her left arm, walk, get herself dressed, and prepare simple meals. Meanwhile, speech therapists helped her learn to speak more clearly and strengthened her memory. Darlene worked very hard on her therapy, even on the days she felt that she would never get well. With the encouragement and support of her family and rehab team, she never gave up on her goal of returning home.

Darlene completed a home assessment with a therapist, who helped her understand what she needed to accomplish or change in order to return home safely. After much discussion with her family and the interdisciplinary team, she decided it would be better to be “safe than sorry.” She transferred with ease to an assisted living apartment on the Wolf Creek campus for one week, before being discharged to her own home where she is now living independently. Darlene’s goals are to resume driving and to keep the left side of her body strong. She was very pleased with her stay at Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek. Darlene was grateful that she had been able to test her independence in a supervised atmosphere that affirmed she could live on her own again.

SANDUSKY CAMPUS

It is important to be able to help members of the community in their times of need. Recently, a referring case worker contacted Lutheran Memorial Home about placing a patient. This patient had been accepted and then denied by several area hospitals, because she needed skilled nursing care and had no health insurance. Her family could not meet her needs at home and was very upset that their loved one, who had been a prominent member of the community, had to go through this humiliation of not having insurance. Motivated by the LHS mission and values, the Sandusky team accepted “Sarah” and helped her obtain medical benefits. Sarah is making great progress and is happy that she is living in a faith-based facility where she is not judged by her circumstances.



HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

“Ava” was referred to LHS through the HOME Choice program. During an initial visit with her Service Coordinator, Ava indicated that the wheelchair that had been ordered by the rehabilitation facility was too large for her, making it difficult to use. Ava was unable to touch the floor with her feet when sitting in the chair, the width of the chair was too large, and she could hardly move the wheels. Ava indicated that her family had requested assistance from the durable medical equipment (DME) company, but they were told they needed to work with Ava’s primary doctor to get the issue resolved. The Service Coordinator contacted the DME company to find out what else could be done. During the phone call, the Service Coordinator was assured that a new, smaller wheelchair would be ordered and delivered to Ava. The Service Coordinator asked, when the chair was delivered, that the DME representative make sure the smaller chair fit Ava properly before leaving it with her. Additionally, the Service Coordinator inquired about changing the height on the chair and was informed that Ava would need a doctor’s prescription in order for the change to take place. When the Service Coordinator relayed all of this information to Ava, she was grateful for the assistance.