



God at Work in Our Midst

Stories of the Called Ministries of Lutheran Homes Society
January 2014



On a daily basis, Lutheran Homes Society impacts the lives of hundreds of residents, clients and their families. The stories told here reflect the mission of Lutheran Homes Society to care for needy youth and elderly with compassion. Our sharing of these stories lets you know your support is truly making a difference in people's lives.

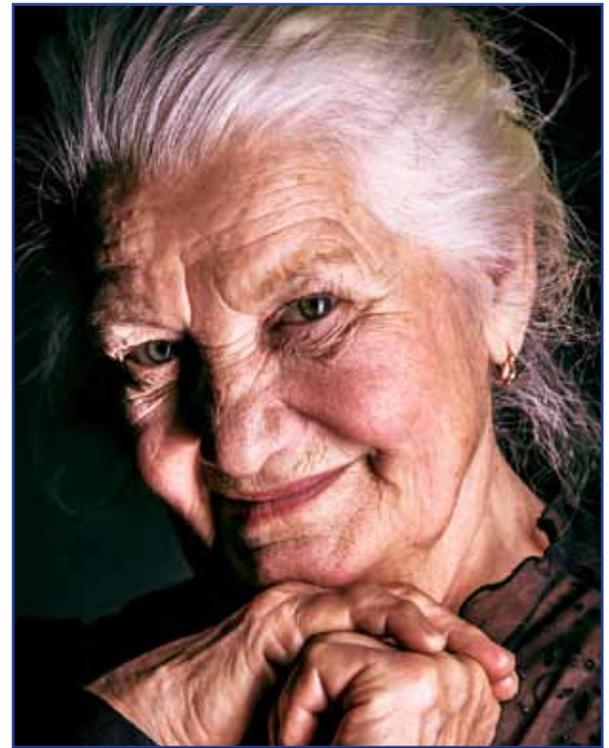
SANDUSKY CAMPUS

“Reginald” came to Lutheran Memorial Home in December from an area hospital. He was upset that he would be in the facility during the holiday season and refused to attend any of the facility’s holiday festivities. The management staff was concerned and went to Reginald’s room to talk to him about why he was not interested in coming out of his room or socializing. Reginald shared that he has no family or friends in Sandusky. All of his family live nearly an hour away and have no way to get to the facility to visit. Hearing this, the staff went to work. They made several phone calls to area organizations and were able to find someone willing to transport his family to and from the facility at no charge. A date was set and a room was reserved for the gathering. Both Reginald and his family were very grateful for the special efforts made by the staff and the opportunity to spend time together.

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Edna’s” life has taken her far from her birthplace in Budapest, Hungary. During WWII, Edna and her mother fled their home as battles engulfed the area. As the war progressed, Edna’s family had to keep moving west, finally arriving in America. She enjoyed a full life and, for many years, owned her own home. However, the time came when she could not take care of her large house anymore and did not like living alone. Edna and her family started looking for alternatives. She decided to move to Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek because of the different levels of care offered on one campus. Edna was the fourth person to sign up for Wolf Creek’s proposed independent living condominiums, and she participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for Creekside in 2001. For many years, Edna enjoyed the luxury of living in her condo, and she cherished the other residents who became like family.

Unfortunately, Edna suffered a stroke in August 2013. She was in and out of the hospital and then came to Wolf Creek for short-term rehab. The care and services provided by the staff were exactly what she needed to become stronger again. When Edna visited with the Executive Director, she frequently praised the efforts of caregivers who went above and beyond for her. At this point, Edna and her family considered moving her to the next level of care. In assisted living, Edna could still be independent, yet she would have all her meals provided, her apartment cleaned, her laundry done, and she would still have companionship. Edna moved into assisted living and is thriving in her new apartment. She truly feels that Wolf Creek has been a blessing to her as she has aged. Edna is just one of many people who feel blessed to have all the levels of care available to them at Wolf Creek.



TOLEDO CAMPUS

“Stella” is a very active lady. The last thing she ever expected was to end up at a skilled nursing facility for rehabilitation. Unfortunately, while out Christmas shopping for her family, Stella suffered a fall that resulted in an injury. It was determined that she would need rehabilitation. After much resistance, she agreed to come to Lutheran Home at Toledo. Upon her arrival, Stella made it perfectly clear that it was important for her to celebrate Christmas at home with her family. Staff went to work to make that happen. With the skill of the caregivers, rehab staff, and discharge planners, Stella made immediate and significant progress and was able to meet her goal of going home for Christmas. She appreciated all the kindness that was shown to her and told the Social Services Director that the impressive care and compassion she was given was a wonderful Christmas present.

HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

“Barb” is in her 50s. Throughout her life she has had her share of obstacles, including health issues, family dysfunction, divorce, and financial difficulties. Earlier this year, she fell and broke her hip, which resulted in a lengthy stay at a rehabilitation facility. During that time, Barb also learned that she has severe osteoporosis. Upon her recovery, she was prepared to return home. Barb was referred to the HOME Choice program, and LHS received the referral to assist with her transition back to the community. She was unable to return to her previous home due to serious mold issues, so LHS staff had to help her locate a new one. Due to her limitations from the osteoporosis, Barb needed a first-floor, one-level apartment. She also needed a two-bedroom apartment because her goal was to obtain temporary custody of her two young grandchildren, who had been in foster care. Being in a rural area, her housing options were very limited. In addition to dealing with her health issues and this transitional process, Barb was also working through the loss of her son-in-law who committed suicide during the summer.

Through the grace of God, much prayer, Barb’s persistence to be independent once again, hours of searching, and the assistance of LHS, Barb was able to find a new home that fit all her needs. Using HOME Choice funding, LHS assisted Barb with the transition, purchasing new household items, paying for her security deposit and first month’s rent, and helping her with the physical move into her new home. Barb’s goal throughout this entire process was to have her grandchildren with her by Christmas. Barb received her wish to celebrate Christmas with her grandchildren. After hearing her inspiring story from the LHS staff involved with her case, Corporate Services staff sponsored Barb’s family for Christmas, providing them with supplies for a nice dinner and gifts to open Christmas morning. Barb has shared her sincere gratitude for the caring support she received, and LHS is honored to have had the opportunity to serve Barb and be a part of her journey.

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Missy” came to the Oregon Treatment Facility for care and, within a few days of intake, began to act out severely. She would bite, spit, kick and attack staff when she was told “no” or her behaviors were redirected. As time went on, Missy began to talk about her past, and staff began to get a more accurate picture of how troubled and dysfunctional her life had been. She had suffered emotional, physical and sexual abuse from those she trusted. She would often resort to animal-like behavior when she acted out, almost as if doing so kept her safe. Missy talked to staff more and more as she began to trust them. She started following the program instead of complaining that she “hates it here.” Missy had trouble in school and would often have to be out of the classroom due to acting out, instigating peers, damaging property, and assaulting the teacher. Within a year, she began to make gains and was able to be in the classroom with her peers, even earning higher grades. She was a positive influence for some of her newer classmates and would often ask to assist the milieu therapists in teaching her peers how to solve some of their assignment questions. She was eventually able to participate in more activities such as hippotherapy and the Special Olympics horse show. Today, Missy lives in a less restrictive group home setting closer to her hometown, where she is continuing high school and working part-time.



NAPOLEON CAMPUS

At the end of November, “Edith” received an invitation to attend a Christmas concert at her local church. This was an event that she had been involved in for years and anticipated attending each year. However, this year her family was concerned that her inability to transfer and walk safely would prohibit her going to the concert. Edith understood their concern and was resigned not to attend. She showed her invitation to activity department staff and reminisced about the concerts she had directed in the past. Through the conversation, they learned that she would not be able to go for safety reasons. Hearing this, the staff wanted to help. They double checked the bus schedule for availability and found it was not scheduled to be in use. They then arranged for her to be transported to the concert. A couple of days before the event, the department presented Edith with an early Christmas card that informed her that she would be attending the concert. She was thrilled at the prospect, and her family could not thank staff enough for making this happen for their mother.