



God at Work in Our Midst

Stories of the Called Ministries of Lutheran Homes Society
July 2015



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.

HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Scams are all too common in today's society. "Burt" was a recent victim. He had recently sent a donation to a charitable organization. Afterward, he was concerned that it was possibly a scam. He said that he just had a "feeling" that something was not right. Since he had sent a check, the organization would have had his bank account information. He approached his LHS Service Coordinator to ask for assistance and brought a portion of the original solicitation letter to review. In very fine print at the bottom of the letter, there was a notation indicating that the funds obtained were not used for cancer research as they had claimed. The fine print stated that people could send a canceled check to obtain a refund. The Service Coordinator helped Burt contact his bank to report the scam. After reviewing a copy of the letter, the bank reported that they forwarded the information to their fraud department and noted that it was an older scam that they had not seen in some time. The bank indicated that the scammers would actually sell the donor's bank account information to others. The bank suggested that Burt close his account and open a new one, while assuring him that his account would be monitored for any suspicious activity until he was able to do this. Fortunately, Burt was able to remedy the situation before any damage was done to his bank account.



WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

"Ruby" had a stroke a few months ago that made her very weak throughout her whole body. She could not walk or carry on a conversation. She also had a brain bleed. She had to have a catheter to help her go to the bathroom and a feeding tube for nourishment. Basically, Ruby could not do anything on her own. However, doctors thought she could get better with therapy at Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek. After three months of physical, occupational, and speech therapy, Ruby is a new person. She can walk with assistance. Therapy taught her how to chew and swallow again, and now she is back to enjoying meals. In addition, she can toilet with assistance, comb her own hair, communicate effectively, and perform the activities of daily living. In her eyes, she is back to the way she was before her stroke, and Ruby is ready to go home to be with her husband.

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

"Barbara" came to Lutheran Home at Napoleon after having hip surgery. She was a pleasure to work with and quickly started building relationships with staff members. Barbara started referring to staff with terms of endearment, and she began enjoying her therapy sessions. She had a positive attitude and was highly motivated. With the help of the supportive and knowledgeable therapy and nursing staff, Barbara was able to return to her home. Discharge planning consisted of making sure Barbara would have everything she needed to be successful at home, including in-home therapy services to continue her recovery. Family would be able to support her nutritional and continuing medical needs, such as taking her to doctor appointments and picking up prescriptions. On the day of her discharge, Barbara walked out the door with staff cheering her on and wishing her well.

SANDUSKY CAMPUS

“James” was admitted to Lutheran Memorial Home after a short hospital stay related to a chronic breathing problem. He hoped to receive therapy and return home. After his rehab was completed, and he was physically and medically stable, James found out that he did not have any place to call home. The Life Enrichment Coordinator assisted him with making sure that insurance would cover his continued stay until safe discharge plans were put in place. She also helped James apply for the HOME Choice Program. This program would help him find an apartment and obtain needed furnishings and personal items. James’ HOME Choice caseworker turned out to be another Lutheran Homes Society employee, who also works as the Service Coordinator at Luther Oaks senior apartment community in Norwalk, Ohio. The LHS team worked together to make James’ transition back into the community a smooth, safe one. James will be going home to a new apartment with the personal items, furnishings, and home health services that he needs to move successfully from a nursing home setting to community living. “My stay at Lutheran Memorial Home was good, including the physical and occupational therapy, the doctors, nurses, and aides,” James explained. He is very grateful for all the support he received from the Lutheran Homes Society family of services.

TOLEDO CAMPUS

“Sharon” chose to have her rehabilitation at The Labuhn Center on the Lutheran Home at Toledo campus, because her father-in-law had been a resident in the Care Center on the same campus. Additionally, Sharon said that the doctors at the hospital spoke highly of The Labuhn Center. When Sharon first arrived, she could not lift her legs off the bed. She needed a mechanical lift and two staff members to get her out of bed and into a chair. Sharon had a variety of health issues that complicated her recovery. This being said, according to the therapy staff, she was very motivated and worked hard during her rehabilitation. Sharon was creative at problem solving and would make suggestions in therapy as to what else she could do to speed up her recovery. Sharon’s version of the story is that she gave therapy a hard time and that “they were wonderful” in return. Sharon has been through a great deal, but she remained very positive and cheerful during her stay. She always had a kind word for other residents and helped them in any way she could. Thanks to Sharon, there was much laughter during group activities. Sharon stated that she had a very good experience at The Labuhn Center, which she credits to the helpful staff and wonderful people she met there. When she was able to return home, Sharon was walking with only a cane for support, and she was not concerned about her ability to get up and down the stairs in her house. Everyone wishes Sharon and her husband the best, and appreciates the laughter she brought to the residents and staff alike.



FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Britney” arrived at LHS Family and Youth Services almost a year ago. She was diagnosed with autism and, although she understands what others say, she is non-verbal. At the time Britney came to the East Toledo Home, she had a communication device with her. It was a board with 60 or 70 buttons, of which she only used around half a dozen with any frequency. Britney could indicate such basic needs as being hungry or having to use the bathroom, but not much more than that. The battery life on the device was short, and it needed frequent charging. Family and Youth staff at Britney’s home, as well as the staff who worked with her at the Blackmon Alternate Learning Center, soon learned how the device operated. They discussed its effectiveness and agreed to research if there might be any better devices available. They found a program called Language Acquisition through Motor Planning (LAMP), which seemed promising for improving Britney’s ability to communicate with others. They applied for a scholarship through the local school system for the LAMP program and an iPad (which serves as the communication device). Britney was awarded the scholarship! Several Family and Youth staff went to a seminar on LAMP and learned how to navigate the program. They then trained other staff on its usage and developed a plan to switch Britney from her old device to the iPad. At first, she was reluctant to make the switch. When Britney tried to hand gesture that she needed something, she was told that she had to use the LAMP program. With consistency and structure provided by all staff involved, Britney mastered the new program. Britney’s mother was shocked and pleased when she was able to have an actual conversation with her daughter for the very first time.