



God at Work in Our Midst

Stories of the Called Ministries of Lutheran Homes Society
June 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.

TOLEDO CAMPUS

"Paul" came to Lutheran Home at Toledo confused and with significant safety concerns. His medications were out of control, and he was no longer able to care for himself. Upon admission, the care team worked diligently with him to get his medications under control, to address his safety awareness, and to improve his quality and wholeness of life. As Paul experienced improvement, the team discovered he had two goals – to be able to swing a golf club again and to go to his 50-year class reunion. After a lot of hard work, not only is Paul now ambulatory, but staff members celebrated as he practiced his golf swing on the front lawn of the Toledo campus for the first time. He was also able to go to his reunion and "couldn't believe how old everyone looked." He plans to continue practicing his golf on the lawn of the Toledo campus.

HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

"John" was referred to Lutheran Homes Society through the Area Office on Aging. The referral requested that LHS help him with the MyCare Ohio process. Through MyCare Ohio, individuals who are in the counties impacted need to select a plan to administer their Medicaid benefits, beginning June 1, 2014. Any individual who does not select a plan will be auto-enrolled in one. LHS received little information on John's situation, but agreed to take on the case. Upon meeting with John, LHS learned that he had severe vision impairments that impacted his ability to read the MyCare Ohio program materials from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. LHS was able to help John navigate and better understand this program and his options. Staff helped John pull together his list of doctors, prescriptions, and other medical providers. They also assisted John in connecting with both Aetna and Buckeye (the two MyCare plan providers in the northwest Ohio area) to compare his circumstances and their level of coverage. In addition, staff assisted John in connecting with his providers that were not yet on the in-network provider list to see if they had plans to become a provider. All of this information was necessary for John to make an informed decision about which plan he wished to elect for his Medicaid coverage. Additionally, John had to decide if he wanted the same company to administer his Medicare benefits. With the LHS staff's assistance, he was able to make an informed decision. At the end of May, John reported that he had successfully received his MyCare Ohio plan ID card.



...staff members celebrated as he practiced his golf swing on the front lawn...

SANDUSKY CAMPUS

When "Joe" came to Lutheran Memorial Home several years ago, he was a very ill man with no family. He was diagnosed with several chronic, debilitating conditions. Joe was very withdrawn and did not feel that staff could restore his functional independence, because other health care providers had tried to improve his quality of life to no avail. The interdisciplinary team made sure that Joe's needs were met. He received intense therapy, with a focus on his psychosocial well-being. He came unable to speak and walk, but now he's walking and assisting other residents. Another reason Joe is a success story is because he came to the Sandusky campus without a family, and we became his family. What is so amazing is that Joe will be leaving soon to move into his own apartment! Joe knows, though, that he will always be a part of the Lutheran Memorial Home family.

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Carol” came to Lutheran Home at Napoleon in the middle of February after a fall at home. She required a fixator in her ankle to reset it and keep her bones in place while they healed. During this process, Carol was not able to bear any weight and had to do exercises in her bed to keep her one leg and upper body strong. She was extremely frustrated with her situation, since she had been an active individual at home and in the community. As time passed, Carol’s ankle slowly healed, and the fixator was removed. However, she was still unable to put weight on the injured foot. Therapy staff continued to work with her to maintain and increase the strength she would require once the physician allowed her to put weight on the injured ankle. After eight weeks, Carol finally received approval to begin walking on her injured ankle. She was hesitant and nervous after all she had been through, but she was determined walk again so she could go home. At the end of May, Carol reached her goal and returned home. She had several choices of where to complete her outpatient therapy; after careful consideration, though, both she and her husband decided to continue her therapy at the Napoleon campus. As she explained, “The therapy staff here knows my situation, they know what I need, and I trust them.”

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Jeff” came to LHS Family & Youth Services six years ago with no verbal communication. He had learned to express himself through pinching, grabbing, hitting, and kicking. He was a very aggressive youth, and appeared to be a very unhappy individual. Staff patiently worked with Jeff on his modes of communication, helping him communicate his wants and needs without the acts of physical aggression. Yet, daily activities, such as taking a shower, using the restroom, wanting a snack, or wanting a toy, could turn into behavioral outbursts. These same challenges were also apparent in Jeff’s educational setting, but staff demonstrated persistence in both the residential and school settings. They helped Jeff communicate by using positive reinforcement, hand-over-hand techniques, and an enormous amount of verbal praise; eventually providing Jeff with the confidence to trust staff. In May, Jeff graduated from the Liberty Educational Center. On graduation day, his parents helped him move into his own home, where Family & Youth staff is providing him with homemaker/personal care services. Today, Jeff is leading a much more productive and happy life than he was six years ago. Even though Jeff may not communicate through his words, he has learned less aggressive ways to express his wants and needs. He has a gentle approach when demonstrating to staff that he wants a certain item, would like to take a shower, or go outside for a walk. When he really wants to let someone know how happy he is, he breaks out into a dance...no music necessary!

*...he breaks out into a dance
...no music necessary!*



WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Katy” lived by herself and loved her home. She enjoyed taking care of her house and spending time with her 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. However, Katy kept falling at home. She went to the doctor and found out her arteries were blocked, and she was actually having a heart attack. Cardiac stents were implanted to help her circulation. She then developed a bad infection in her colon, which produced fluid around her stomach, and she was hospitalized for an additional three weeks. When discharged from the hospital, she came to Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek for rehabilitation. She received physical and occupational therapy to get back her strength. Katy loved being at the Wolf Creek campus. The nurses were wonderful and very professional, and therapy gave her life back. Katy feels wonderful and is returning home. She has received a clean bill of health and says, “I would definitely come back to Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek if the need arose.”