



God at Work in Our Midst

Stories of the Called Ministries of Lutheran Homes Society
May 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.

HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

“Barry” was a community client through the HOME Choice program, who faced obstacle after obstacle in his transition from a nursing facility to a new home in the community. The LHS Service Coordinator assigned to help Barry transition successfully first assisted Barry with researching jobs and arranging for transportation to and from job interviews. When Barry obtained two jobs that allowed him to bring in adequate income, he then found a suitable apartment in the Lima area that was close to where he worked. The HOME Choice program also enabled the Service Coordinator to assist Barry with obtaining furniture, household items, and groceries, as he had absolutely nothing when he left the nursing facility. Barry gained confidence and was excited to be living in his own apartment and earning his own income again. His health continued to improve, and he was gradually able to work more hours to ensure a steady income to cover his expenses. Barry is very appreciative of all of the assistance he has received and is grateful to be able to maintain his own independence.

SANDUSKY CAMPUS

“Gloria” came to Lutheran Memorial Home for a short-term therapy stay following major surgery. She had been to other skilled nursing facilities in the area before, but she was exceptionally happy with the LHS Sandusky campus. Every day, Gloria had several guests who helped her stay in great spirits during her three-week stay. While she was eager to return home to her cats, she knew she was receiving therapy for very good reasons. In addition, the location was perfect, because the campus is close to home and only a couple of miles from her appointments and family. Gloria looked forward to getting physical, occupational and speech therapy each morning. She always felt like a well-respected patient. She was often greeted and assisted by nurses and aides, who Gloria describes as “great and there to help in a timely fashion.” As Gloria left to return home, she wanted to point out the most significant factors about her stay. She felt the therapy and speedy service were truly the highlights. All the services she received were fantastic, but those two items really made her time “lovely.” Gloria commented, “I would come back here if I needed to, and I would recommend it to other people. Lutheran Memorial Home is different than any other facility I have ever been to!”



NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Jeff” has been a rehab patient at Lutheran Home at Napoleon on several occasions, following illnesses and surgeries. He is familiar with staff, and staff has learned more and more about his preferences. Jeff has never been very enthusiastic about the food or drinks on the campus and was having a hard time with his appetite. Then the Executive Director noticed that staff members were bringing in his favorite brands of food and snacks. From bringing in French vanilla coffee creamer to preparing an entrée for him in the bake shop, staff members from several departments were catering to him. They weren't looking for recognition or a pat on the back either. No one had said anything, but once she paid closer attention, she became aware of a whole underground team of employees doing good for no other reason than the enrichment of a resident's life. “That's when you know you've made it. When good is happening all around you, and no one asks to be recognized for it.” Jeff returned home, and is hopefully sipping coffee on a front porch somewhere, with the perfect amount of French Vanilla creamer in his cup.

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

Prior to coming to Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek, “Brenda” was living alone. She started having health problems and, due to complications, she slipped while cleaning, fell, and bumped her head. After Brenda was released from the hospital, she was unable to return home. She told the discharge planner that she wanted to go to Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek. “I came for therapy, and it has been a wonderful experience,” Brenda said. Therapy has worked with Brenda to build up her strength. She has grown stronger every day. She is happy with the care she has received at the Wolf Creek campus, and, if she needs therapy again, she knows this place will be “my home away from home.” In addition, therapy has set Brenda up with home health services, so she will have assistance when she returns home and can continue to get stronger.

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Grace” was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, oppositional defiant disorder, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and displayed attention-seeking behaviors, which often led to aggression, such as spitting, punching, kicking, hitting, and the destruction of property. After many failed placements and detention stays, she was placed at the LHS Maumee Youth Center. Initially, Grace displayed the same behaviors that she had displayed with her family at home and in previous placements. She would become so violent that staff would need to use physical restraints to keep her safe. Grace was provided unwavering structure, as well as regular counseling twice each week. She and her family participated each month in the Partners in Treatment program. Grace showed slow, but consistent improvement. Her aggressive outbursts occurred less often. She began to display the coping skills that staff worked so hard to teach her, and her need for immediate gratification was slowly beginning to disappear, as well.

Her parents feel that Grace has reached a level of improvement they thought she would never achieve. “At her past placement, her therapist asked us what to do with Grace,” her mom said. “Everyone at LHS has shown us what to do with her. All of you have made so much progress with her.” Grace has made so much progress that she was able to transition to the East Toledo Group Home, where she continues to do well with the structure and activities provided there, and has shown very little regression in the process. Grace attends school at the Blackmon Alternate Learning Center and received three A+ grades, two Cs, and a B on her most recent report card. LHS is now working on a transition plan to follow her graduation.



TOLEDO CAMPUS

“Martha” is the kind of person you would expect to do well in therapy, since one of her favorite activities while living in Lutheran Home at Toledo’s assisted living is group exercise. When Martha recently became ill and went to the hospital, she experienced generalized weakness and some problems with balance. Already a resident of the Toledo campus, she came to The Labuhn Center for her rehabilitation. The therapy staff worked diligently with Martha and found her to be highly motivated. In fact, within two weeks Martha was able to return to her assisted living apartment. She credits the therapy staff for her quick recovery. She said they explained everything as they worked together and were all very positive. However, there is no doubt that Martha’s attitude contributed to her speedy recovery. “I’d only be hurting myself if I didn’t work hard in therapy,” she said. Martha is back in her apartment and happy to be back to her regular routine.