



God at Work in Our Midst

Stories of the Called Ministries of Lutheran Homes Society
November 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.

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

Six-year-old Trey came to the LHS Maumee Youth Center weighing 42 pounds, by far the smallest youth ever served by LHS Family and Youth Services. He was developmentally disabled and non-verbal. In addition, he had heart problems. The placing agency asked us to keep him safe and provide consistency and structure while they worked on a long-term solution. Trey's father worked with a traveling carnival. His mother was developmentally disabled. His family moved from town to town with the carnival, where Trey ran free and had little structure. Trey would not wear shoes and was always on the move. At the Maumee Youth Center, he loved to run and play in the courtyard. He had a contagious laugh and smile, but he had a lot of catching up to do. Therapists and staff worked together to identify areas of immediate need and put corrective action plans in place.



Over time and with persistent efforts by staff, Trey learned safe behaviors. Precautions were put in place and changes were made to accommodate his needs. A large room was transformed into a play area, where other youth played with him and treated him as a little brother. He was placed on a structured toileting schedule and became more independent. He learned to tolerate shoes and socks and was introduced to utensils for eating. As suddenly as Trey had come, he left. He was placed in a foster home with people who felt they could manage him, but they couldn't. The caseworker, impressed by what Trey had accomplished in such a short time, asked if he could return to the Family & Youth program. This time, Trey was at the Oregon Treatment Facility. He quickly re-learned what he had been taught and continued to improve his eating and toileting habits. Eventually, he went to live with his biological family, who no longer travel the carnival circuit. Trey and his mother receive services in the home. Today, Trey is happy to be with his family and continues to build upon his accomplishments.

SANDUSKY CAMPUS

"Betty" had been bed-ridden for months, unable to care for her own needs. Her husband, "Tom," knew he had to find a facility where his wife could receive the nursing and therapy services needed to restore her health, independence and mobility. Tom called the admissions office after hours, expecting to leave a message, and was surprised when someone actually answered his call at 8 p.m. He explained the situation, and staff went to work setting up transportation, preparing her room, and verifying insurance. Betty was admitted to Lutheran Memorial Home the next morning. Upon her arrival, the therapy staff completed an assessment and was shocked that Tom had been able to care for Betty for so long. She was so weak she could not sit on the side of her bed without falling over. After two weeks of intensive therapy, Betty was able to walk with the aid of a rolling walker, and she began participating in Bible study and bingo. After a month, she was discharged, but she still stops in each week to bring treats for the residents. Betty is extremely grateful for the care she received and, since returning home, has referred four people to Lutheran Memorial Home for skilled nursing care.

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

"T.J." fell at a local grocery store, but thought nothing of it, and drove himself home. Ignoring his pain, T.J. sat down to watch a football game on TV. At halftime, he realized he was in trouble when he could not get up from his chair. His wife called 911, and he was taken to the hospital where he was diagnosed with a pelvic fracture. While T.J. had many rehab center choices near his home, he selected Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek. He was impressed with Wolf Creek's beautiful campus and knew from prior visits that it was a clean smelling facility. After just days of therapy, T.J. realized he was at the best place. "Being a people person, I enjoyed watching all the older residents go through their therapy, having fun, laughing, smiling and not even realizing they were working to better themselves." Soon T.J. will be discharged, but he plans to continue his outpatient therapy at Wolf Creek after he returns home. "People are so friendly and willing to help. I really love it here."

HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

“Zackary” had been seeing the same dentist for the last 30 years. Unfortunately, during a recent phone call, he was told that his MyCare Ohio Medicaid health coverage plan would not be accepted. He was quite distraught about having to find a new dentist, since he could not afford to pay privately. Luckily, he was able to turn to his LHS housing site’s Service Coordinator for help. The coordinator called Zackary’s MyCare Ohio plan, and the representative indicated that providers, such as his dentist, were encouraged to participate in the plan during the transitional period, but were under no obligation. The contact also indicated that the plan uses DentaQuest for dental care and encouraged the coordinator to make sure the dentist was aware of that. With Zackary’s permission, the coordinator called, and it turned out that his dentist accepted this program. Zackary was thrilled that he could continue to see his dentist and the services would be covered by his insurance.

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

Early one morning, staff noticed that “Marcille,” an assisted living resident, was having difficulty getting up. She also was slurring her words and had right-sided weakness. Marcille was rushed to the hospital, where it was determined that she had suffered a debilitating stroke. Her physician suggested hospice services, and the family placed her in Lutheran Home at Napoleon’s care center. As the days progressed, however, the staff and hospice nurse began to notice changes. After a week, Marcille was starting to speak more clearly and to sit up. The therapy department asked hospice for permission to evaluate how Marcille would tolerate physical, occupational and speech therapy. The sessions progressed slowly, but everyone involved in her care noticed improvement. After about two weeks, the interdisciplinary team, hospice, and Marcille decided to discontinue hospice services and focus on rehabilitation. Her determination was tremendous, and she began ambulating again and acting like her old self. Marcille’s family attributes her progress to her therapy plan, which incorporated a return to her assisted living apartment. They are overjoyed with her recovery and are astounded at how much change had occurred in a short two-month span. As the quote on the wall of Marcille’s former room in the care center says, “Every day holds a possibility of a miracle.” That is exactly what family members call their mother’s recovery.



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TOLEDO CAMPUS

Sleeplessness and anxiety plagued “Joan” every night after visiting her husband “David” in the hospital. After a cervical repair procedure, David needed a rehabilitation center, so his family searched online and liked what they saw at The Labuhn Center. Their daughter arranged for a tour, and the first thing she noticed was that it smelled like a person’s home and not like “a nursing home.” Subsequently, David came to The Labuhn Center for his recovery. He was bed-ridden but determined to conquer his health issues. David was re-hospitalized twice, and each time he came back more resolved than ever to get back on his feet and return home. Through hard work, and with the encouragement of the therapy team and nursing staff, David was able to walk out of The Labuhn Center with the aid of a walker. He returns for outpatient therapy and is now transitioning from a walker to a cane. Because he practices his exercises at home, he continues to make progress between his outpatient therapy sessions. One of David’s happiest days was when his cervical collar was removed and he was able to get a good shave. When asked about The Labuhn Center, David commented, “I like it so much here, I keep coming back.” His family was at peace during his stay and liked being able to check in on him at any time, even after getting off work late at night. Joan stated that if either one of them ever needs rehab services again, they will choose The Labuhn Center.