



God at Work in Our Midst

Stories of the Called Ministries of Lutheran Homes Society
November 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.

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

"Samantha," a former youth in care, spent time at the Wynn Treatment Facility and experienced several ups and downs while living there. One minute Samantha was kind, caring, appropriate and a pleasure to be around. The next minute she would damage property and abuse herself. Samantha hit a pretty big low right before leaving Family & Youth's care, when she made threats to harm herself severely. She had extreme anxiety about "aging out" and leaving the Wynn facility. Samantha went home with family and held her own. She ran into some difficulties when confronted with the true nature of the people in her family. She did not receive the care and support from her family that she received at Wynn. Instead of reverting back to old habits, however, Samantha moved out of her home and secured a job to support herself. She now lives in her own apartment and has recently received a raise. Samantha continues to move forward and uses the experiences she had while at LHS to become successful in her life. Her former caregivers applaud her efforts.

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

"Betty" had suffered a major stroke, and her prognosis was poor. She and her family decided that an inpatient hospice facility was the right choice for her last days. It seems that God had other plans for Betty, however, as she began to improve. The decision was made to move her to Lutheran Home at Napoleon for skilled nursing care. Betty also needed a great deal of therapy in order to improve her quality of life. She worked hard, wanted to improve, and had a very positive attitude. She was kind, gracious, and very complimentary to the staff for everything they did to help her get better. A goal was set for Betty to return home, but she also had the comfort of knowing that she could move into Alpine Village assisted living or remain at the care center where she had made friends with both staff and residents. Between therapy treatments, Betty attended group activities and saw how important being active was to her overall wellness. Betty's recovery is a miracle. After her stroke, she could barely talk or move, and now she is able to propel herself in her wheelchair, her cognition has greatly improved, she has use of both hands, and she can walk with assistance. Betty has much to be grateful for, but so do the staff and residents of the care center. Betty has such a positive attitude; it can't help but spill over to others. She is a blessing to everyone who has gotten to know her, and she continues to be an example of what can be achieved when we focus on what we can do and not on our limitations. Betty is now on the waiting list to move into an assisted living apartment on the Napoleon campus.



SANDUSKY CAMPUS

"Carol" was admitted to Lutheran Memorial Home after having been in a Cleveland area hospital for an extended period of time with acute respiratory failure, exacerbated by chronic lung disease. When Carol arrived at the Sandusky campus, staff discovered that she had lost most of her belongings in a house fire and that she and her disabled son were temporarily living with her daughter. She had been inside the home when it caught fire and inhaled some smoke, which contributed to her current medical issues. Nursing staff provided her daily care, and therapists worked with her on strengthening her body and using proper breathing techniques whenever she became short of breath. At discharge, Carol thanked the staff for helping her return home to her family in time for the holidays. She understands that, due to her breathing issues, the return to her normal way of life will be gradual. While walking out the door, she expressed her gratitude for the "great care" she had received during her stay.

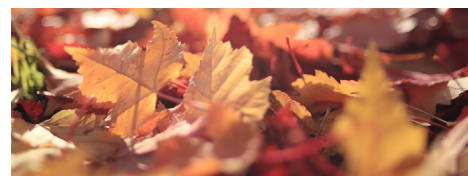
HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

“Matthew” was recently diagnosed with cancer. It has been a very stressful time for him due to the pain and his concern over his medical bills. Matthew has Medicare Advantage insurance, but it does not cover everything. An LHS Service Coordinator was able to assist Matthew with persuading two local hospitals to write off his bills. He also was receiving denial of coverage notices for significant bills he had accrued at the Cleveland Clinic. The Service Coordinator contacted Cleveland Clinic and arranged for the bills to be resubmitted to his insurance. In addition, the coordinator helped Matthew complete Cleveland Clinic’s patient assistance application. Matthew had also expressed concern about his state retirement benefits changeover this year, so the coordinator contacted the company handling the changeover to private coverage and scheduled his phone appointment at a time when the coordinator could participate in the call, too. Furthermore, Matthew was having an increasingly difficult time functioning on a daily basis, and he felt guilty about his family having to help him so much. The coordinator discussed the PASSPORT waiver program with Matthew, and he was very eager to get started in the process. The coordinator scheduled an assessment with PASSPORT and offered to help him gather the needed information. Once his enrollment is complete, Matthew should qualify for in-home services that will help his family with his care.

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Emily” has had two total hip replacements. After her first surgery, she had a negative experience during her recovery at another facility. When she scheduled her second hip replacement surgery, she knew she wanted to go somewhere else for her rehabilitation. Her neighbor recommended Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek. The location was close to her apartment, so Emily decided to give it a try after she toured the campus. She knew therapy was not going to be easy. She had been through it before. It was hard work, and it was going to hurt. However, the Wolf Creek therapists were more helpful than those at the other facility. They were so friendly, positive and encouraging that she even enjoyed her workouts.

When she was ready to be discharged, Emily wanted to make sure she was ready to be on her own. She decided to stay in Wolf Creek’s assisted living for a week to test her abilities. While there, she was able to continue her therapy, gain confidence in her independence, and even reconnect with a long-lost cousin who lived there. After the week was over, Emily transitioned home successfully. However, her apartment was small, and she worried that she was losing some of the strength she had worked so hard to build up. To combat this, Emily began going to Wolf Creek three times a week for outpatient therapy to maintain her balance and to continue to preserve her independence. She continues to enjoy her therapy and the staff. Emily’s goal is to walk without a walker, and she is not going to stop working as long as there is improvement. “I couldn’t have picked a better rehab facility. Thank you Wolf Creek for having everything I needed, when I needed it. You are awesome!”



TOLEDO CAMPUS

“Mark” was reluctant to come to The Labuhn Center on the Lutheran Home at Toledo campus. When he talks about family and home, the look on his face says as much as his words: it is obvious how much they both mean to him. While in The Labuhn Center, Mark kept busy. On the few occasions he was in his room, he was busy on his laptop or talking to his family on the telephone. Otherwise, he could be found around the campus. It did not take him long to discover the courtyard with its fish pond, bird feeders and flower beds. At other times, he could be found with a group of residents enjoying lively conversation or sharing a meal in the dining room. When asked about his stay at The Labuhn Center, Michael said it is a “great place,” where “they do a lot of people a lot of good.” This is something he knows first hand. When Michael first started his rehabilitation, he could only stand for a minute or two and ambulate about 10 feet. With hard work and determination, his strength and endurance have increased. Now Michael is headed home to his family, stronger and ready to face life’s challenges.