



# God at Work in Our Midst

Stories of the Called Ministries of Lutheran Homes Society  
October 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.

## HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

“Wanda” is receiving services through Lutheran Homes Society and the HOME Choice program. She has been working with the Service Coordinator on multiple issues, one of which was help with re-enrolling in college. Wanda wanted to get her associates degree. She asked for the Coordinator's assistance in finding ways to offset the cost of her textbooks. The Coordinator was able to provide her with a few options, including a website where she could potentially purchase books for 75% off the retail price. The Coordinator also suggested that Wanda speak with her college professors to see if they had any extra copies, and she referred her to other community agencies that help with school expenses. Wanda has since started college and informed the Service Coordinator that she was able to find help covering the cost of her textbooks. With the Coordinator's help, Wanda has been able to work toward achieving her dream of obtaining a college degree.



## TOLEDO CAMPUS

“Denise” came to The Labuhn Center after surgery on her right shoulder, and she was in extreme pain. She had lost much of the function in her right upper arm and was in need of assistance to complete many of her daily tasks. Denise had been referred to The Labuhn Center by a friend, but she was hesitant to enter a skilled nursing facility. Once she got settled in, however, she stated that the facility felt like home. “The staff went out of their way to make me comfortable,” she said. “The nursing staff was great, and the therapy I received was outstanding. I have to say that one of the small things I enjoyed was the dining atmosphere and the great food. I have changed my lifestyle because of my stay at The Labuhn Center.” Denise also said that the variety of food options was wonderful, and she came to realize how good many of the healthy choices on the menu were. By the time of her discharge, Denise had regained enough function to complete her daily tasks, but she was not fully recovered. Consequently, she came back to the facility for outpatient therapy. With the help of therapy, she was able to regain the use of her arm, and now it functions better than her left arm. “Everyone went above and beyond for me during my stay, and I would recommend the facility to anyone who is looking for skilled nursing services,” she added. Denise plans to return after she has surgery on her other shoulder.

## FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Jeff” came to LHS Family and Youth Services in 2003, first to the Oregon Treatment Facility and then to the Maumee Youth Center. He had experienced 31 failed placements before he was nine years old. He was abused as an infant, toddler and young boy. Family and Youth staff kept him safe, providing not only stability and consistency, but nurture, love, and hope. Still, he had many setbacks in care – taking two steps forward and three steps back. He responded to the nurture, love, and hope by cutting himself, destroying staff cars, and getting physically violent. Steadfast staff members stayed with him and continued to help him. Jeff graduated high school in 2012, a major victory, and moved to the adult program. For the next two years, Jeff was in and out of jail and in and out of psychiatric hospitals. He had two staff assigned to him around the clock. Several months ago, Jeff attended church for the first time in his life, accompanied by three staff members. He has been attending church since then. Jeff recently moved into his own house that he rents. He is also working to support himself.

## NAPOLEON CAMPUS

Recently, “Lou Ann” stopped by Lutheran Home at Napoleon to inquire about the service offerings. She explained that her daughter, “Lisa,” had recently had surgery and needed specialized care. She had initially selected another care facility because it was in the same town as her physician and surgeon. Her daughter, however, had acquired an infection in her incision that required her to go back to the hospital, and Lou Ann was now looking for an alternate placement. After discussing next steps, Lisa decided that she wanted to come to the Napoleon campus. She would be coming to the facility with a new type of wound vac. The staff understood the importance of managing her incision and contacted the wound vac device representative, who immediately educated the nurses on the new device. When Lisa arrived, special efforts were made to ensure that the wound vac was in place and working properly. Almost immediately, the incision began to heal. Lisa was still healing when staff learned that she was about to have a milestone birthday. The staff decided they would make sure it was a good one. While Lisa was resting, staff members decorated her room with signs and balloons. She was so surprised by the decorations that she told everyone who came to visit her about the extra effort. Lisa has continued to make great progress, and during a care conference told the management team that the Lutheran Home should have been her first choice.

## SANDUSKY CAMPUS

Lutheran Memorial Home works very hard to maintain a family-oriented environment. So, when a long-term resident asked that his brother be admitted to the facility, staff immediately started working on the request. “Troy” was in need of multiple therapy disciplines but did not have any skilled payment coverage. The Admissions Coordinator worked with the Director of Rehabilitation to cost out and set a therapy schedule in which the facility would absorb the costs. Once admitted, the Life Enrichment Coordinator did additional research and discovered that Troy was eligible for several skilled insurances. During a care conference, Troy and his family were presented with the information. Troy shared that he had been at another facility for three months and had received no therapy at all, because he did not have insurance. Troy is grateful that his brother approached the Lutheran Memorial Home team with his referral.



## WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Karla” had led a full life with her husband of 48 years. She had never been in a hospital and had passed most of her medical tests with flying colors. Things began to change, though, when Karla discontinued taking her thyroid medicine. She grew weaker and weaker, but she just thought it was her age. Her husband was very concerned, and, during one of her weakened spells, he called 9-1-1. Paramedics immediately took her to the hospital, where she was admitted for tests. They discovered that her thyroid had totally bottomed out. The extensive testing performed on Karla also showed that she had two blocked arteries and a leakage in her heart. After being discharged from the hospital, a weak Karla – she couldn’t even hold her head up – was admitted to Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek for rehabilitation. A few days after a procedure to install a stent, Karla was discharged to her home. She experienced complications that eventually led to a return to the hospital. This time, Karla was in ICU for three weeks before being sent back to the Wolf Creek campus for more care. Karla’s initial goal was to have enough strength to get up and go to the bathroom. Karla loved Wolf Creek both times she was a patient. She said the nurses, aides, therapists, and even the housekeepers were genuinely kind and compassionate. The chaplain was an integral part of Karla’s recovery, too. He prayed with her often and even got her husband to go back to the church. She felt everyone truly cared about her as a person. Even when she couldn’t sleep at night, staff would come and keep her company. Karla appreciates every day and is thankful for the “small” things in life – like being able to get up and walk to the bathroom.