



God at Work in Our Midst

Stories of the Called Ministries of Lutheran Homes Society
October 2015



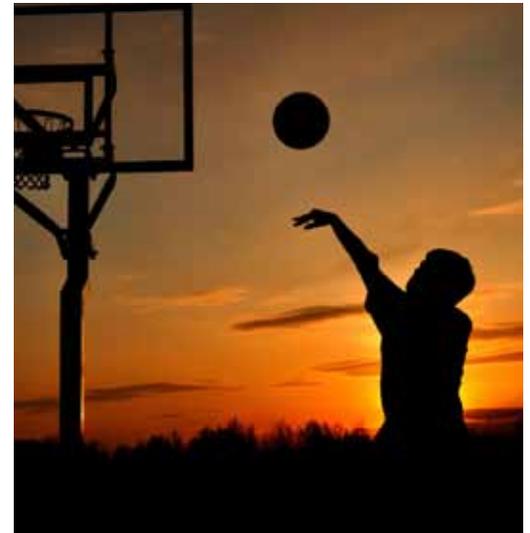
On a daily basis, Lutheran Homes Society impacts hundreds of residents, clients and families. The stories told here reflect the mission of Lutheran Homes Society to care for needy youth and elderly with compassion. Sharing these stories lets you know your support is truly making a difference in people's lives.

TOLEDO CAMPUS

"My friends say I'm like a cat with nine lives, and I think I'm on about life five." These are the words of The Labuhn Center's patient "Jane," as she described the serious health issues that have put her in the hospital numerous times. The most recent hospital stay followed a car accident that crushed her leg. Jane is no stranger to rehabilitation, either. She considers herself a survivor with a positive attitude, who is willing to work hard to achieve a goal. Her goal is to return home. When Jane first arrived at The Labuhn Center, she could not sit up unassisted and was having difficulty eating. She started making progress, but suffered a setback and had to be readmitted to the hospital. Upon her return to The Labuhn Center, she resumed therapy, and "Boom, I bounced right back," Jane stated. She likes the fact that the staff does not do everything for her. "They challenge me," she said. "When I get home, I'll have to do it myself. I need to be able to stand so I can cook my own meals." Jane described the therapists as "really positive with everybody. They applauded when I walked 100 feet. They make you want to work harder." Jane is very thankful for the progress that she is making. She appreciates the care she is receiving at The Labuhn Center and thinks "it's a place to be proud of." Jane continues to work hard, stay positive, and strive to reach her goal of returning home.

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

"Lucas" spent the last 10 years in and out of foster placements, residential treatment facilities, and juvenile detention. He had limited family involvement and virtually no ties to his community. When he arrived at the LHS Maumee Youth Center, he struggled a great deal with handling his aggression. Lucas was not prepared to interact socially with his peers or staff. He would hurt himself or others on a daily basis. At first, it was very difficult for Lucas to accept responsibility for his actions. After a period of time, he was able to discuss his behaviors and even come up with alternative ways to cope with his feelings. Through role playing, processing, and a great deal of staff reassurance, Lucas made great progress. While living at the Maumee Youth Center, Lucas was able to join a Special Olympics basketball team, gain employment through the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, and become a positive role model to his peers. Lucas has transitioned to his own apartment, where he receives a small amount of staff support and has a full-time job.



WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

"Patty" had a stroke in September 2014 that paralyzed her from the waist down. Her future looked grim, and she felt that her independence had been stripped away. Patty was admitted to Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek's rehabilitation center to get stronger – to work the muscles that had atrophied after her stroke. She worked hard at therapy and knew it would take time to get her muscles moving again. Therapy exhausted her, but she was hopeful that through the encouragement and expertise of her therapists (Mary, Debbie, Jessica and Mike) she would make progress. Their smiles and friendliness pulled her through the drudgery of physical and occupational therapy. Patty's therapists first focused on strengthening her upper body and taught her how to depend on her arms, because Patty could not use her legs. They also taught her how to perform her personal hygiene on her own. These little stepping stones gave Patty motivation and encouragement to continue. She learned to raise her legs with the help of leg lifters. One of her greatest achievements so far was learning to put on her socks and take them off by herself. That was a very happy day for Patty and her therapists. Patty is very complimentary of the therapy department on the Wolf Creek campus. She would like to thank the therapists for their patience and encouragement, and for always having smiles on their faces. She is very encouraged with her progress and hopes one day to be able to move around with the aid of a walker. She feels confident that all of her hard work will pay off, because she has already seen so much progress. Patty contributes much of her success to her relationship and rapport with the Wolf Creek therapists.

HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

“Jerrie” has been living in a nursing care facility since December 2014 and has been enrolled in the HOME Choice Medicaid waiver program since February of this year. He has been disabled most of his life due to a chronic heart condition. The LHS Service Coordinator assigned to him through the HOME Choice program has worked through numerous obstacles to find Jerrie housing outside a care facility. The obstacles were due mainly to his low income and criminal background. After a long road, Jerrie is finally moving into a home in the community. He would not be where he is today – starting his new path of independence –without the help of Lutheran Homes Society, and the HOME Choice and Recovery Requires a Community programs. Jerrie is beyond thrilled to start his new journey in his fully furnished, brand new apartment, and he is extremely grateful for all the help he has received from LHS.

SANDUSKY CAMPUS

“Robert” was admitted to Lutheran Memorial Home from Advanced Specialty Hospital in Toledo, suffering from injuries he received in a head-on motor vehicle accident. He had sustained multiple orthopedic fractures that required surgical repair, experienced respiratory failure that required intubation, and had numerous other medical issues. Subsequently, he received skilled nursing care and therapy at the Sandusky campus. Robert was happy to be closer to home for his rehabilitative care, so his family would not have to drive as far to see him. He was eager to do whatever it took to get better and to return home. Upon admission, he had doctor’s orders that limited the weight on his right leg due to delayed healing. The therapists instructed him on the importance of adhering to those restrictions, so he would not re-injure himself. Robert was also taught how to use a walker, to bathe, and to dress himself.

Each day, Robert maintained a positive attitude and excelled in therapy. Eventually, his leg healed, and his weight restriction was lifted. He began to walk under therapy’s supervision. Throughout his stay, he would often praise his family for motivating him to get better. Every day, his wife and children would visit and encourage him to push harder. His wife thanked the nursing and therapy staff often. “It is truly a miracle how much you have helped him,” she stated. Eventually, Robert was doing so well that he was able to return home while continuing to come back for outpatient therapy. At discharge, he thanked everyone for their care and compassion during this difficult time in his life and thanked God for “allowing me to heal and return home to my family.”



NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Jim” came to Lutheran Home at Napoleon for rehabilitation after having surgery. He was confused and did not remember the first few days he spent in the hospital. Since he was rather young, Jim dreaded coming to a skilled care facility. Within 72 hours of being on the Napoleon campus, however, his opinion and attitude changed dramatically. During his care conference, staff asked Jim how his care had been so far. He was so overcome with emotion that he could hardly get out the words, “You are my guardian angels.” He complimented the staff and was obviously filled with gratitude because of their “patience.” He praised a particular STNA, Jeff, for taking extra time and care with him. It was a defining moment for staff members, although certainly unexpected, that was so worth the wait!